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October 1989

Newsletter 6

"The glory of creation is in its infinite diversity and the way our differences combine to create meaning and beauty."

Honorary Members: Gene Roddenberry, Richard Arnold, Susan Sackett, George Takei and Guy Vardaman

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Hello, everyone, welcome to Newsletter 6. With this issue we complete our first year of running IDIC and with over 300 members the club is looking healthy. We hope that those of you who have been with us from issue 1 have enjoyed the newsletters and been satisfied with the club - we will soon find out if you have as 140 of you are due to renew before the next newsletter. If you want to be sure of getting the next newsletter please renew as soon as possible as come the middle of November we'll need to decide how many newsletters to print. Some of you paid for your friends to join IDIC. Unfortunately we can only cope with sending renewal forms to the members themselves. IDIC's financial year doesn't end till the end of November so it will be February before we can print the end of year accounts.

We'd like to welcome Karen Sparks to the position of Committee Assistant. She has certainly earned the title; over the last few months she has contributed a great deal for the newsletters, typed one zine (and is in the process of typing a couple more) and has been more than willing to help out when - for example - something has been shown on TV at a time when none of us has been able to watch it. Without her help we'd have had a lot more work putting out the newsletters. Many of you send in contributions for the newsletters and zines, and we really do appreciate these, but Karen's contributions and willingness to help have been over and above the call of IDIC membership.

We're trying to get this newsletter out to you a week early to give you the chance to order a pewter replica of the series Enterprise - if you have £175.00 to spare. If we receive them in time an advert will be enclosed, if not see under MERCHANDISE for details - orders must be telephoned in by September 30th.

We have been asked about club T-shirts like the ones we have been wearing at the last 2 cons. Ours are white, with the IDIC logo in black. We are considering ordering these if there is sufficient interest. At the moment they look like costing about £7.50, plus postage; and we might be able to get some other colours as well as white. If anyone is interested, perhaps they would let Valerie know; if there seems to be enough demand, we would make enquiries as to a final price.

Some of you have asked us make it clear to whom you send what so we've put this on the last page. Basically how we work it is that Janet does most of the newsletter which leaves Sheila and Valerie free to edit and type up the zines - although they do type up their own N/L articles. If you are writing to Sheila or Valerie anyway it is okay to send newsletter submissions to them but they need to receive them at least 10 days before the deadline so that they can type them up and send them through to Janet to be added to the various files. Janet then prints up a proof copy of each section. Sheila and Valerie arrive at Janet's on Friday night and newsletter weekend is mostly spent proof reading, correcting, writing our letter, deciding what we can fit in the newsletter and the best order to put the articles in. Once Sheila and Valerie leave for home on Sunday afternoon Janet starts putting

the newsletter together on the computer and prints a 'camera' proof copy. At this stage items may have to be swapped round to fit, and items may have to be added or left out to fit the x4 page layout. Once this is done, and it can take up to three evenings, Janet prints the A4 masters (at 9 pages per hour if all goes well). These are then posted to Sheila who reduces them and puts them in for printing. Sheila also sticks the labels on the envelopes, stamps them and then with the help of the "Chain Gang" stuffs them with the newsletters and posts them out. From the next newsletter on she'll be filling out a lot of membership cards as well. It will cut out a lot of paperwork for Janet if when members renew we send their new membership card with the next newsletter. Don't think Valerie is having an easy time, she is being kept busy with the zines.

We seem to have misled a few of you with the disclaimer at the end of Linda Wood's article. All opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the committee. The only things you can safely assume the three of us agreed on are in our joint letter; any time we express our own opinions we will put our names to them the same as any other member.

We were lucky enough, along with 250 other ST fans, to attend a special preview of STV in London on Sunday 30th of July and we'd like to thank Sarah Harman of UIP for organising the screening, and Nic Farey for arranging things with the clubs. We had some extra tickets and phoned a number of you to see if you could go. Unfortunately some couldn't manage it on short notice, some of you were out when we phoned and some phones were engaged for so long we couldn't keep on trying. It was a case of the first ones we managed to contact who could make it got the tickets. It was a very full weekend for us, as we spent the Saturday at Pilot Con in Glasgow - a one-day media minicon - before travelling to London overnight. We didn't see much of Pilot outside the sales room, but we did get a chance to chat to Anne Page, who is well-known to everyone who attends cons.

Anne looked so well at Pilot that we were particularly shocked to hear at Rec-con that she was in hospital with diabetic blindness, having suffered a haemorrhage earlier that same week. We're sure you will join us in wishing her a complete recovery.

We have quite a few comments on STV in this newsletter but we've kept them separate this time for those who want to see the film first. In the next newsletter we hope to give a more in-depth look at STV. We still do not have a definite release date on STV but it looks like being in October.

We are exchanging newsletters with a ST group in Florida called Star Trekkers. This is run by Vicky Walters and Jan A. Seifert. We hope to bring you more news from them in future newsletters and also tell you something about the group. It will be fun exchanging ideas and views across the Atlantic. Star Trekkers is not a club such as we know it Britain. They put out an interesting monthly newsletter but it seems that to get a copy you have to contribute to it. We will be asking them to let us know how the system works.

Since the last newsletter, several of you who read the review of THE BEGINNING AND THE END have contacted either At the Sign of the Dragon or Sheila to ask where you could get a copy. Unfortunately we forgot to say that this zine, originally put out by ScotPress and later by Simone Mason, has been out of print for several years; we managed to get a few photocopies made which have all been sent to At The Sign of the Dragon, but we can't guarantee being able to get any more done at a reasonable price. In future we'll say at the end of a zine review if it is out of print.

Thank you to Frances Abarnethy, Freda Boydell, Jean Barron, Helen Cakebread, Pam Clarke, Joyce Devlin, Kerstin Droge, Janet Ellicott, Karin Embacher, Antje Freudenberg, Assy Friedel, Ena Glogowska, Christine Hornby, Christine Jones, Pat Mitchell, Maria Muhlman, Alison Rooney, Jane Sayle, Karen Sparks, Staff of DRI, Lesley Walker, Elaine Wells, Helen White, Edward Woo, and Claudia/Sorsha Wuttke for sending in used stamps for The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. For those of you who don't already know, we have been collecting stamps for the Guide Dogs for

many years and in that time have handed in several hundredweight - any country, any denomination, definitives or 'specials'. If you don't already save used stamps, please consider doing so; and if you are writing to any of us, all you have to do is put the stamps you have collected in with the letter. Even if you don't get many letters and can only send a few stamps, they all help provide funds for the provision of another guide dog.

Unfortunately we won't be going to Midcon this year. It isn't until November and Sheila (our driver) feels the weather is too risky at that time of year, with the possibility of fog or ice, to commit ourselves to driving as far as Leicester when we couldn't get there until after midnight even if conditions were perfect. Since Sheila is teaching she can't get either Friday or Monday off. However Karen will be going and covering the guest talks for the newsletter. She will also write us a con report but if any of you are going and would like to send us your con report for the newsletter we'd love to receive it. You will need to write it straight after the con and post it to Janet by the following weekend (Nov 11th) at the latest by 1st class post, so that she can get it typed up by the 17th.

Janet, Sheila, Valerie 10/09/89

LATEST STAR TREK NEWS

compiled by Janet Quarton

According to Titan Books advert for "Captain's Log" in THE BOOKSELLER, 1/9/89 STAR TREK V: THE FINAL FRONTIER will be released on October 20th and they have a major promotional support tie-in including: author visit by Lisabeth Shatner; specialist and women's press interviews and advertising; local media reviews and competitions.

FROM RICHARD ARNOLD AT REC-CON '89

The following has been extracted from Richard's talks. We're not sure of the spelling of some of the names.

STAR TREK V

STV opened strongly and took more the opening weekend than any other ST film had done for the opening weekend; it broke the summer box office record which had been set by Indiana Jones. STV took 17.3 million dollars that opening 3 day weekend but the following weekend Ghostbusters 2 broke the record with 25.2 million and the following weekend again Batman took 42.8 million. Unfortunately after doing well the first 2 days, after the 3rd day STV dropped 91%. Richard doesn't feel that Ghostbusters or Batman were to blame, especially as Indiana Jones opened before STV and is still doing well. Richard thinks all the fans saw STV the first two days but the word of mouth wasn't very good, even among the fans, and the film didn't attract the general public. The film needed to make 80 million dollars at the box office to break even. Only 40% of box office take goes to the producer - Paramount was also distributor so it also got that cut. STV opened in 22 hundred theatres but it is now pulled from most of them and it did not take 50 million dollars - 30 million short. Richard says Paramount won't lose money on the film as there is still the money from merchandising, videos, cable, TV and the foreign box office to come in. They will have made a profit on it, but not as much as they had hoped. They are discussing STVI - hopefully with a September 1991 release to celebrate Star Trek's 25th Anniversary, but it is not a sure thing.

When asked why we have to wait so long to get films in Britain Richard says that if they think a film will be a big hit they will make extra prints for foreign release but otherwise they delay it and presumably do up the U.S. prints. The opening has to be altered slightly as Britain has a different way of rating films. If a film doesn't do well it may never be released at the cinema in Britain but released on

video instead. We will definitely get to see STV as at 50 million dollars it is one of the top grossing films of the year. It is just that it was an expensive film to make.

The special effects weren't as good as they had hoped for but they couldn't get ILM who were working on Ghostbusters 2, The Abyss and Indiana Jones 3.

The shuttle used in the film was a full scale model costing £9,000; it had 14 people in it. They had to build a road in the desert to get equipment out for filming and they had to write an environmental impact report for the government to show this wasn't going to cause serious ecological damage to the area.

When asked why the Enterprise in the film was shown to have 80 decks when she actually has 12 in saucer section and 22 in the entire ship, Richard said someone decided it would look more dramatic and said "No one will notice"!! He says that they've decided amongst themselves that 'deck' doesn't really mean deck. It means something else - *(sub deck maybe)*

The reason the Klingon makeup differs in the films and TNG is because different makeup artists are used and they don't like to copy what someone else has done. It seems they have now decided that younger Klingons now have smoother bumps on their spine which comes down to their nose; this gets more pronounced and bumpy as they get older.

The reason they don't use characters from the original series or previous films in the new films or TNG is because they would have to pay the original writer quite a lot of money for the use of their characters.

When asked if any footage will be added to STIV when it is released on TV Richard said that there isn't any extra footage to add. STTMP had 15 minutes added and STIII 13 minutes but there wasn't anything available to add to STIII and STIV. STV did have quite a lot cut from the final version (22 - 25 minutes) but a lot of this couldn't be added for various reasons. It would weaken the film not strengthen it. They actually had to re-shoot some extra footage for STV because the film didn't do well at its first preview. This is explained in the book "Captain's Log". *(We're hoping they will add some of the footage for TV.)*

In a USA TODAY poll they asked "Do you think they should keep making ST movies with the original characters or start making movies with the new characters?" The overwhelming result was with the new characters. They also asked of the two series which is the more popular and the original series won out on that. Richard says that this indicates that the fans still love the original series and Kirk, Spock and McCoy but don't want to see the actors get older in the parts. Richard pointed out that while none of the actors are over 70 yet if they make STVI two of them will be 70, two 60 and 3 in their mid-fifties.

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

The third season has now started filming and by Rec-Con three episodes had been filmed; "Evolution" where they have a serious problem with an alien life form, "Essence of Them" (*? Couldn't quite make out the title*) and "Survivors". "Evolution" was actually filmed first but will be shown second. Whoopi Goldberg is back for the third season, and so, you will be pleased to hear, is Guy Vardaman. It is now confirmed that Gates McFadden is back as Crusher. Of this Richard said:

"The problems with the Crusher character weren't going to be solved over the summer and at the time they felt the best solution was to just let her go and not bring her back for the second season. Gene asked Diana, an old friend, to come and play the role of Pulaski and she was a guest star for a year. You'll have noticed that in the credits. And then a year, now, and a half later they have decided that the Crusher character might work better. And she was been brought back... she's working out just fine now. Wesley is now taller than mum so she can't baby him any longer and we won't have any more of those problems. Some of the other problems that

existed with the character have also been taken care of."

All of the main cast including Patrick Stewart are also back for the third season but in Patrick's case it wasn't all straight forward:

"Patrick, fortunately for us, refused to sign his contract for the third season until he got something. And he almost did not come back for the third season because he was so insistent on this. He wanted control over his dialogue. Believe me, everybody on the show, on the creative side, was saying yes, yes, yes! Give it. Because he can take any scene and improve it, which he certainly did in 'Measure of a Man'. As well written as that was he just polished it to the nth degree."

The story for "The Measure of a Man" was written by Melinda Snodgrass but Richard said the strongest dialogue, Picard's summation and the scene with Guinan, were written by Patrick Stewart.

For the third season they have a new camera crew, new lighting crew a lot of new technical people, almost 50% new people on the set. They also have a new uniform. The original 1st & 2nd season costumes were made from stretch spandex reversed. They would take all the heat out of you if it was cool and they would cook you if you were out in the sun. The actors had warm up jackets to keep them warm inside and cool outside. The jacket had a fleece of some sort. The old uniforms also shrank when they were dry cleaned and as they were one piece they were very uncomfortable for the men. The new costume looks very similar to the original but it is now two piece and unzips down the back. It is made of gabardene not stretch spandex.

They are planning to have a lot of planet shows in the third season and are actually going to go out and do some exploring and meet some new people. La Forge has been promoted to Lieutenant Commander and Worf to full Lieutenant.

The 2nd season has picked up 8 Emmy Nominations - the most any Sydcated show has ever had. These are for:

- Outstanding Art Direction for a series,
- Outstanding Costume Design for a series,
- Outstanding Achievement in Hair styling for a series, (Unnatural Selection was particularly named),
- Outstanding Achievement in Make Up for a series,
- Outstanding Achievement in Music Composition,
- Outstanding Sound Editing,
- Outstanding Sound Mixing,
- Outstanding Special Visual Effects.

When asked whether it was planned to make any TNG movies Richard said that they can't make any at the moment because the series is in production and will be in production for several years to come. They don't have to wait for the TV stations or the Neilson ratings or anything like that. All of the stations must show it as long as they make it as that is their contract with them. And they'll continue to make the new series as long as it's successful. The first season was running in the top ten of all syndicated shows; throughout the second season they were frequently running in the top five, and the last few weeks it ran in 3rd place. It even knocked Bill Cosby out (*We gather that means something in the States*). TNG is in the top 20 of all shows on TV including network shows and no syndicated show has ever got in the top 20 there.

Richard mentioned that Gene's son Eugene Wesley Roddenberry 2nd appeared as a 13 - 14 year old in some episodes.

After "Elementary Dear Data" was shown Richard said that some fans complained it was impossible to build London in the finite space of the holodeck, with people running around alleys etc.. Richard pointed out that the set was built and filmed in a 15000 sq foot sound stage and if they could build what looks like a city street, a wharf and a dock, an alley and Moriarty's area, why couldn't this be produced

holographically in an empty room. The largest sound stage is 20000 sq feet which is smaller than some rooms on current aircraft carriers.

"Schizoid Man" had an ending in the script that was not filmed. "We come back up to the bridge and see Picard sitting in the captain's chair, Troi is on one side, Riker's on the other. They're both smirking about something. The captain is very upset about something; he's very glum looking. And Riker says something like, 'Don't you find it amusing, sir?' and Picard says, 'No, I don't think it's a damned bit funny.' and says 'Take us out of orbit!'. The camera pulls up to show Data's hands putting in the computer coordinates for the next destination and Data says, 'Yes, Captain' and the camera pulls back and Data's bald. However somebody didn't think that was funny so it wasn't done. But it is in the script."

John DeLancie's wife played the part of the female chorus in "Loud as a Whisper".

George Baxter, a 22 year old Star Trek fan, played the part of 12 year old David in "Unnatural Selection". Originally his role was going to be a much bigger role. The first thing he did after he was cast was to come in and have his body shaved from the neck down, then he was covered with plaster for two hours except for a couple of straws up his nose. When the mold was pulled off of him he was then covered with vaseline. Two days later he came in for his fitting and he was shaved again. All body hair had to be removed because he had to look like a child and George was hairy. Unfortunately it was decided that to save money all the dialogue would be written out and the children would be telepaths. This means that they were paid as extras and George didn't get what would have been his first screen credit. George still had the time of his life as he was a Star Trek fan.

When asked about the Starlog article about Tracy Torme Richard said, "We had a producer our 1st and 2nd season who felt that the show needed to be more of an action/adventure Miami Vice like show. He and Gene were frequently battling it out which was very unfortunate. He and Tracy (Torme) did not get along very well and it was this gentleman's opinion that this episode ("Royale") was too light, too much of a comedy episode and he tried to make it much more serious which didn't work. And most of the charm of Tracy's script was taken away by his rewrite, by this particular producer who's no longer with us by the way - at Gene's insistence. So this story which should have been a lot lighter, you can definitely see the possibilities, ended up being almost like a Twilight Zone episode."

In "Icarus Factor", during Worf's ceremony, the Klingon at the far back on the right is John Tesh(?) who is the host on 'Entertainment Tonight'. He is big, 6' 6", and, as a great Star Trek fan, asked if he could have a part in the series. One of the aliens in "Manhunt" was Mick Fleetwood from Fleetwood Mac. He is a Star Trek fan and had wanted to be in Star Trek for a long time. He even shaved off his beard and moustache for the part as the alien face was make-up and not a mask.

Richard said they received a lot of letters about the episode "Up a Long Ladder". Some Irish Americans claimed that the portrayal of the colonists was an insult to them and their ancestors. Some people even wrote to the Irish Embassy in Washington DC, who wrote back saying that they found nothing offensive in the episode. The ST Office also got letters from the pro-lifers who thought it was a pro-abortion episode. They didn't like Riker's line in the conference lounge when they were objecting to having clones made from their bodies. Riker says "We should have control over our own bodies." Originally that line had been given to Pulaski but Melinda Snodgrass, the story editor, said, "Oh God, people will think that's a pro-choice statement," and put it in Riker's mouth. They still got letters. They also got letters concerning the scene in Riker's quarters where the girl drops her skirt and Riker stands looking rather stunned. She says, "What's the matter, William, don't you like girls?" And he answers back, "Of course I do." So they then got letters from the gay community saying "What's wrong with not liking girls?" More letters came in about the scene where Pulaski and Worf had tea together, the letters complained it was offensive to show Pulaski and Worf doing drugs together.

The girl who played the Vulcan in "Schizoid Man" also played the Klingon in

"Emissary".

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION - The last Second Season Episodes by Karen Sparks

"MANHUNT" Written by Terry Devereaux

The Enterprise is transporting 2 mysterious aliens known as Antedean, along with Lwaxana Troi, Ambassador for Betazed, to Pacifica for a conference. She is undergoing a midlife 'phase' peculiar to her race, which, Deanna explains, quadruples - or more! - her sex drive. In his efforts to avoid her advances, Picard seeks refuge in the Dixon Hill simulation on the holodeck.

"THE EMISSARY" TV story and teleplay by Richard Manning and Hans Beimler, based on an unpublished story by Thomas H. Calder

The Enterprise is diverted to beam aboard a passenger from a class 8 probe. She is Special Emissary Kehler, a woman of mixed Klingon and Human blood from Worf's past. Despite his obvious discomfort they must work together on the mission to intercept a Klingon ship, the crew of which have been in cryogenic sleep for 75 years; when these Klingons set out on their journey they were still at war with the Federation, and they're about to wake up near unprotected Federation outposts.

"PEAK PERFORMANCE" Written by David Kemper

Against his initial judgement, Picard agrees to the Enterprise participating in a wargame exercise, which is supervised by a Zakdorn strategist from Starfleet. The opposing commander is Riker who takes a crew of 40 to command on the outdated vessel U.S.S. Hathaway. Pride and reputations are at stake as the two ships face each other with weapons systems disconnected - and an enemy vessel appears out of nowhere.

"SHADES OF GRAY" Teleplay by Maurice Hurley, Richard Manning and Hans Beimler. Story by Maurice Hurley

Riker is injured during a planet survey and is infected by deadly microbes. In sickbay Pulaski and Troi work together to save his life, and a side-effect of the treatment they try causes Riker to have vivid dreams about his past experiences on the Enterprise.

(Thanks for info to Anne MacKenzie)

STAR TREK IN THE NEWS

compiled by Janet Quarton

The purpose of this column is to let you know which magazines to look out for as well as letting you know some of what has been printed in the papers. Most magazines are available from the book shops listed at the end of the newsletter or in the Merchandising column.

STAR TREK OFFICIAL CLUB MAGAZINE 69 August/September

Readers Comments - these are varied; both pro and anti STV with some "so-so"

"Laurence Luckinbill - Searching for the Soul of Sybok" 3 page interview.

"Tasha Martel" 1 page article about the actress who played T'Pol in "Amok Time" (Her earliest work was done as Arline Sax; she then changed her name to Arlene Martel, and in 1973 changed it again to Tasha Martel.)

"Where No Man..." 1.5 page article about J.M. Dillard, the author of "STV: The Final Frontier", "Mindshadow", "Demons", "Blood Thirst" and "The Lost Years" which will be published in October.

"Star Trek News" Regarding the return of Crusher they quote Gene Roddenberry as saying, "We are thrilled that Gates will be rejoining Star Trek: The Next Generation family. It was always our intention to leave the door open for her return to the show..." "...although Diana is certainly a most talented actress, the chemistry we

had hoped for did not develop. Our producers were happy with her and hope she will be available for future guest roles."

"Durinda Wood Costume Designer" 1 page article about the costume designer who replaced Bill Theiss in TNG's second season.

"Robert Schenkkan" 1.5 page article about the actor who played Lt. Commander Dexter Remmick in the TNG episodes "Coming of Age" and "Conspiracy".

STARLOG 144 July '89 "Fan Network - More Transwarp Trouble" One page article discussing where fans discuss starship design.

"William Shatner Shakedown Cruise" 6 pages. Part 1 of and interview with William Shatner where he talks about filming STV.

"The McEveety Glory" 4 page article about Star Trek director Vincent McEveety. He worked as a director on Gene Roddenberry's series "The Lieutenant" before directing 6 episodes of Star Trek. He directed "Balance of Terror", "Miri", "Dagger of the Mind", "Patterns of Force", "Omega Glory" and "Spectre of the Gun".

STARLOG 146 September '89 "James Doohan Daredevil of the Skies" 4 page article where Jimmy discusses STV, TNG and his early life. Jimmy doesn't think that 'all' the characters had enough to do in STV.

"George Takei Real Anticipations Eternal Frustrations" 3 page article where George talks about STV and "Return from the River Kwai".

STARLOG 147 October '89 "Leonard Nimoy Science Officer's Log" 4 page article where Nimoy talks about STV and looks back at the other ST films.

"Arthur Heinemann Behind 'The Savage Curtain'" 2 page article about the writer of "Wink of an Eye", "Way to Eden" and "Savage Curtain".

"Raiders of the Lost Starcruiser" 1 page article about the Star Trek items at the Smithsonian Institution's Air and Space Museum. As well as the Enterprise there are some unlit displays at the back of the first building (number 24) and hidden away there is the Klingon Battle Cruiser, some Tribbles and a mold for Spock's ears. There are other items in storage including the Enterprise in the plastic block from "Catpaw", the Tholian ship and Aurora spacecraft. If you want to see Star Trek items on display you can inquire about reservations by phoning (202) 357-1440 between 9am and 3:15pm Monday to Friday.

A Small Silver Anniversary Star Trek exhibit for the year 1991 is presently in the proposal stage.

"Cinderella Story" 5 page article about Melinda Snodgrass, executive script consultant on TNG. Melinda wrote "The Measure of a Man", "Up the Long Ladder", and the teleplay for "Pen Pals".

"Walter Koenig Caught in a Moon Trap" 4 page article in which Walter talks about STV, Moontrap and TNG. Walter says he didn't have much to do in STV and was only on the set for 8 days. Of Shatner he says, "I was happily surprised at how positive and reinforcing Bill was as a director... Bill, as it turned out, was very enthusiastic even about the smallest scenes and it was nice to see that he was supportive."

STARLOG YEARBOOK VOL. 5 "Number One's Guide to the Great Life" 4 page article about Jonathan Frakes where he talks about TNG.

Reprints of "Patrick Stewart Epic Hero" 5 pages; "Michael Dorn Klingon Warrior" 4 pages; "Casualty of The Lost Generation" - David Gautreaux 3 pages; "Untold Tales of Star Trek II The Lost Generation" 7 pages

FLICKS August '89 Colour picture of Kirk, Spock & McCoy plus short article mentioning that STV opened well in the States.

FANTASY ZONE 1 October '89 "Previews" "While *Star Trek V: The Final Frontier* is not the space western you reckoned (or even feared) it to be, it also isn't like any of the other Star Trek movies either... perhaps the major reason it's least like other Trek films is because Shatner has created a big budget feature film with the heart and soul of a one hour tv show. Still, *Star Trek V*, is an amiable film, and fans should especially enjoy it."

"Trekker takes her fun seriously" St Joseph News-Press/Gazette 21st May, 1989
Interesting 1 page article about ST fan Melissa Middleswart.

"Original 'Trek' crew should abandon ship" USA Today 15th June, 1989
1 page article, by Matt Roush, which is nasty about STV saying "It is the lamest of the lot" and comparing the original actors unfavourably with the TNG ones.
"Crotchety Bones, going-to-seed Kirk, and the eternal stiff Vulcan Spock - they're Galactic Three Stooges, kvetching like three old biddies in too-tight tunics."
Articles like this will outrage original series fans and are likely to turn them against TNG. Maybe the writer is deliberately try to cause a rift between Star Trek fans. Hopefully fans have enough sense not to allow themselves to be 'stirred'.

"'Next Generation' lures fans into Trekkie fold" USA Today 15th June, 1989
Short article about Creation Con in Los Angeles. Dan Madsen of the Official Fan Club says membership has risen to 35,000 from 15,000 2 years ago and he relates this to the success of TNG.

"Star veterans head for gold" That's Entertainment Wales on Sunday Early '89
Half page article about Star Trek and STV.

"Inner Space" LA Weekly 16th-22nd June, 1989
1 page review of STV. The reviewer, Helen Knode, seems to feel the Kirk/Spock relationship has been parodied in the film.

"Beam me up Poofy" News of the World 16th July, 1989
Ian Brandes who wrote the article somehow got hold of a comedy K/S zine - "Scandals of Shikahr". It could have been worse considering some of the zines they might have got.

"Four-day mission for Star Trek followers" Yorkshire Evening Post 26th August
"Hundreds of 'Trekkies' beamed down for breakfast at Leeds' Hilton International Hotel today for the second day of the massive Star Trek convention.
For devotees of Captain Kirk, Spock and the rest of the Starship Enterprise crew, the chance to dress up as Klingons and watch video film, was an opportunity not to be missed. More than 550 fans have taken over the hotel for their four-day sci-fi celebration, ending on Monday.

Among them was one Mandy Mills, 30, who, complete with pointed ears and eyebrows travelled from Wimbledon to meet other aliens for some logical discussion....
Guest speakers at this year's convention are Todd Bryant, who plays the Klingon captain in the soon-to-be-released Star Trek 5 film, Richard Arnold, Star Trek liaison officer for Paramount Pictures, and Dr Jack Cohen, a biologist from Aston University, Birmingham, who works on the creation of aliens for the film company.

(Thanks for info and cuttings to Sheila Cornall, Joyce Devlin, Terry Griffiths, Christine Jones, Ruth Kurz, Mike Mullen, Karen Sparks, Linda Watt, Edward Woo.)

MERCHANDISE

compiled by Janet Quanton

BOOKS -

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|-----------------------|---|
| July TNG7 | Masks by John Bornholt Pocket Books & Titan |
| Aug TNG8 | The Captains' Honour by David Dvorkin Titan |
| Books to look out for | |
| Oct | The Lost Years by J.M. Dillard Hardback |
| Oct? | Cry of the Onlies by Judy Klass (Original Series) |
| Nov? TNG | A Call to Darkness by Michael Jan Friedman |

Star Trek V: The Final Frontier novelisation by J. M. Dillard
Captain's Log: William Shatner's Personal Account of the Making of Star Trek V as told to Lisabeth Shatner. Titan £5.99 Published October 20th, 1989

Official Movie Magazine: Star Trek V: The Final Frontier The Ultimate Trip (Starlog)

Star Trek V: The Final Frontier 1990 Calander. British price £5.00 approx.
We believe there will be a TNG calendar but there is no sign of it yet.

WARNING: When buying books and the audio cassette novels watch that you do not confuse "The Final Frontier" by Diane Carey with "Star Trek V: The Final Frontier". Some of us have already nearly made that mistake.

VIDEOS

THE BIG GOODBYE/HAVEN: TNG episodes 11/10
DATAFORE/ANGEL ONE: TNG episodes 12/13
11001001/COMING OF AGE: TNG episodes 14/18
HEART OF GLORY/WHEN THE BOUGH BREAKS: TNG episodes 19/16

Original series tapes priced £9.99 in the shops or the same from Andromeda plus p&p.
27/28 ERRAND OF MERCY/CITY ON THE EDGE OF FOREVER
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Due next:
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33/34 WHO MOURNS FOR ADONAI/AMOK TIME

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The closing date for posting orders is 30th September, 1989

The Sunday Express Magazine carried the above advert on August 27th. It looks a beautiful replica.

The following info came from Richard Arnold at Rec-Con.

Star Trek V: The Final Frontier Soundtrack is available as import in HMV London and some other shops. It will be released in Britain by CBS in October.

Star Trek V: The Final Frontier Video should be released in the States around Christmas or Easter and in Britain around Easter or Summer, 1990.

These are some of what is licensed by Paramount; Richard did mention manufacturers but we couldn't pick our their names on the tape:

Comic Books DC Comics, books, juvenile books, posters, role playing games, plastic model kits, collectible plates, steins and dolls, Viewmaster reels, pins, collectible coins, T-shirts & sweatshirts, story records, record albums, audio cassettes, computer software, stickers and sticker books, souvenir magazines, toys, lunch kits, Halloween costumes, sleep wear, limited edition posters, credit cards, costume patterns, pewter sculpture of the Enterprise, pewter sculpture of the Klingon ship coming out soon.

Michael Cooder and Chris Sternback are working on a Star Trek Technical Manual. It is the first time there is one which is completely 100% authorised and it will have all the facts about the new Enterprise; Michael Cooder does the graphics on TNG so he knows his subject. The book is TNG only as it is felt that so many books have already been released on the original series that it is too late to do an official

one. All original series books like Mr. Scott's Guide to the Enterprise are speculation and not authentic. The new Star Trek Technical Manual will probably be out next summer, around April/May/June.

Richard says plans are underway for Franklin Mint to release a Pewter Star Trek Chess set. The white side will have Kirk as King, Uhura as Queen, Spock & McCoy as bishops, Chekov and Sulu as knights, the rooks are tiny Enterprises and the pawns are security officers, kneeling down with phasers. The black side comprises Khan as King, Romulan Commander (from "Enterprise Incidents") as Queen, Gorn & Romulan Commander (from "Balance of Terror") as bishops, Gorn + ? as knights, the rooks are Romulan Birds of prey and the pawns are Klingons with disrupters. The pieces are very finely detailed. The price - wait for it! - around 1000 dollars. Each piece will probably be sold separately.

Shops recommended by members:

Starchild P.O. Box 1480, Boca Raton, FL 33429, USA. Star Trek and other Media SF. Send a couple of IRCs for their current catalogue.

Intergalactic Trading Co, Inc. P.O. Box 1516, Longwood, FL 32752-1516, USA. Star Trek and other Media. Send a couple of IRCs for their current part colour catalogue.

(Thanks for info to At the Sign of the Dragon, Helen White & Karen Sparks)

ORDERING MERCHANDISE FROM ABROAD

by Sheila Clark

There are in America several firms that specialise in media merchandise, including Trek merchandise; Lincoln Enterprises is possibly one of the best known, but there are others too. They sell a variety of material, from film clips to T-shirts, from elastoplast dressings to ship models, and a lot of these things can only be got from America - no British firm imports them.

In an earlier article I wrote about ordering zines from America; there, we're dealing with the amateur market. Most merchandise is put out by professional traders.

As I said in the earlier article, the cost of bank drafts is horrendous. Many of the professional dealers however accept Visa or Mastercard (Access) and if you deal with them, all you need to do is send your credit card number exactly the same as you would do if ordering mail order from a British address. Your card will be debited in due course and there doesn't seem to be any added handling charge. It's certainly the simplest and cheapest method of ordering from abroad.

However - there is one slight drawback to ordering merchandise from abroad - a possible added expense that we tend to forget about.

Customs.

Zines - printed matter - are not liable to Customs dues, although some packets with zines are stopped and checked, apparently at random; but other merchandise is. Not everything is stopped and not everything that is stopped and checked is charged, but there is always the possibility that your packet may be the unlucky one. There doesn't seem to be any rhyme or reason behind what they stop, either, though they often seem to go by the value marked on the packet.

A recent stoppage was a packet with 4 T-shirts plus some other items - value £40.00, and the fan ordering them got a Customs bill for £11. I remember a packet

of film clips being stopped (years ago) and a fairly hefty charge whacked onto it. I seem to remember that an appeal on that one got the bill cancelled - it was pointed out to Customs that single half frame film clips wasn't the sort of merchandise that would bring the buyer a massive profit on resale - if indeed they could be resold. A few years ago, Valerie and I got some original artwork; one packet (which was addressed to the school where I was based at the time) came through without being checked, the next (to my home address) was charged quite steeply - I believe original artwork is usually pounced on by Customs. To add insult to injury, they also added a 'handling charge' for opening and resealing the packet!

When Majel Barrett was over at Galileo Con a few years ago, she brought over a lot of Lincoln Enterprises material for sale, and was horrified by the amount she was charged by Customs for it - of course, there were several boxes full.

One possibility if you want to try avoiding being caught by Customs seems to be, keep your orders relatively small. If you want a lot from one supplier, send him half a dozen small orders over several months rather than one big one. I don't guarantee that that will work, but it might help.

At least it's worth trying. Good luck!

ACTOR INFO

compiled by Janet Quarton

George Takei George has been busy during 1989. On March 1st he attended the Royal World Charity Premiere of "Return from the River Kwai" which was attended by H.R.H. The Duchess of York. The Premiere was in aid of The Royal Academy of Arts and it was held at the Odeon, Marble Arch. The film opened to the public at the same cinema on April 7th and has since been to Derby, Nottingham and Peterborough. It is due out on video on September 22nd for rental hire. It has not been shown in the States yet owing to a dispute over the title - someone thinks the words "River Kwai" are copyright and shouldn't be used.

The book "Return from the River Kwai" by Joan & Clay Blair Jr., published by Penguin, is on sale for £3.99. It is not the "story of the film" but of the researched facts.

George was back in Britain as Guest of Honour at Sol III in May and before that, on April 23rd, he ran in the London Marathon. He did not aim to break any records, he just wanted to be a part of it and he did complete the course.

George has recorded a number of Star Trek novels on audio cassette, his latest being "Star Trek V : The Final Frontier" and a double cassette of "Spock's World". He has also recorded "Enterprise: The First Adventure", "Strangers from the Sky" and "Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home". George has kindly given his original script, used when making the audio tape of "Spock's World", to "G.H.T." to raise funds for the club. It is autographed by George, and will be offered in a draw soon. This will be open to all fans who care to contact "G.H.T." enquiring about it - please include return postage.

DRAW in progress for George Takei's autographed script of "Star Trek V : The Final Frontier" for the audio cassette recording of the novel for Simon & Schuster. £1.00 for 5 tickets from "G.H.T." 62 Southbank Street, Leek, Staffs. ST13 5LN. Please enclose SAE.

On August 15th George was due to fly to Australia to make a film, "Blood Oath" in Queensland. He was to be there about one month and then planned to go to Japan to promote the film "Return from the River Kwai" which opens on October 15th, '89. If all goes according to schedule George will then fly back to the USA to continue the

Conventions round.

(Thanks to Ena Glogowska for the above info.)

Walter Koenig During the shooting of STIV, Mr Koenig had been told to run as fast as possible to escape from the well-trained crew of the ship being used as the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise. As the director instructed the real-life crew of the ship that this was just an act the crew members went through the snap, click, bang motions of the way they were going to handle their guns. This gave Mr. Chekov all the incentive he needed to 'run fast'. At the call of action - he took off. Only to be recalled for going too fast! Needless to say he finished the scene with his famous jump off the deck. Mr. Koenig asked if he should include a scream? No, was the answer. The jump was made and after the scene was shot - the desire to scream was quite a reality, as Mr. Koenig had landed on his fingers and stubbed them (said he'd never had anything so painful!) Oh, yes - he was also called back to the studio to dub in a scream so he ran the gamut of screams until they had the 'right' one.

(Info from Star Trekkers, Florida)

"Captain Kirk turns Green to Save World" Daily Star 6th July, 1989

One page article. Shatner discusses his fears for the environment. He is working for a global event in 1990 called Earth Day. "This sets out to raise the consciousness of the world to the fact that we are destroying ourselves with great rapidity and destroying our environment."

"What his dog says about him" Daily Express July 27th, 1989

An article about the type of dog people choose. There was a nice picture of William Shatner and 3 of his dobermans.

"Here's what your man's dog says about him....

Guard dog: Macho man's bark is worse than his bite. He likes a large butch dog to reflect his personality. Owned by William Shatner, Steve Davis, Patrick Duffy.

(Thanks for info and cuttings to Sheila Cornall, Joyce Devlin, Christine Jones, Ruth Kurz, Karen Sparks, Linda Watt, Edward Woo.)

JAMES DOOHAN

James Doohan was born in Vancouver, B.C. on March 3rd. He attended high school in Sarnia, Ontario, flexing his acting muscles for the first time in school productions.

During WWII Jimmy was a captain in the Royal Canadian Artillery. Wounded on D-Day, he became a flyer observer for the rest of the war, where his rather unusual stunts earned him the reputation of "the craziest pilot in the Canadian Air Force". It isn't hard to imagine that, is it?

Discharged from the service in 1945, Jimmy discovered the Veterans' Administration owed him nine years of university training, so he went to the Veterans' Administration School in London, Ontario to bone up on subjects which had been neglected for six and a half years, while toying with the idea of going into dentistry. He had become interested in dentistry while recuperating from his wound, hanging around the reinforcement depot and getting to know some of the dentists and admiring their work. "But thank God, I never got into it!" he has since said, vehemently!

During the Christmas holidays of 1945, while still in London, Ontario, he heard a radio drama which was very bad. Believing he could do better work, even without any training, he compiled some material and did a test taping at the local radio station. When complimented by the operator on his ability, Jimmy asked him where to go to learn and was directed to a school in Toronto, where six months later he had won the top two-year scholarship to the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York City.

He stayed on to teach three years after that, two of his students being Joanne Woodward and Leslie Nielsen. He hated teaching, however, and began to find acting work anywhere and everywhere he could. Jimmy certainly lived up to his motto while in New York: "If you see something to do, do it!" He had performed on more than 4,000 radio shows, 120 stage plays and 400 live-taped TV programs when his friend, Lee Marvin, persuaded him to move to Los Angeles in 1961. He didn't find work in Los Angeles right away, but as fortune would have it, was able to fly back and forth to Toronto, where he had several offers of work. If it hadn't been for the Canadian jobs, he may have quit the acting business altogether and become a chemist, like his father before him.

Since coming to Hollywood he has appeared in over 100 movie and TV roles, including: "Hazel", "Bonanza", "The Virginian", "Gunsmoke", "Peyton Place", "The Fugitive", "Marcus Welby, M.D.", "Ben Casey", "Bewitched", "Fantasy Island" and, of course, "Star Trek" (TV); "The Wheeler Dealers", "The Satan Bug", "Bus Riley's Back In Town" and "Fellowship" (film); "The Trial of James McNeil Whistler" and "Teddy" (stage).

Jimmy's natural gift of accents served him well in the various and numerous roles he has played over the years, and there have been many occasions when members of the audience were shocked to find out he wasn't a Briton or Scot. Often his parents were astonished at his childhood mimicry of accents, wondering who had taught him. No one had, obviously - it was something he was born with - a 'photographic ear'.

In addition to taking on the role of Scotty in the original series of "Star Trek", Jimmy performed in two other Canadian sci-fi TV shows called "Space Command" and "Jason of Star Command", which he now finds totally forgettable! It was these types of roles which brought him to the jarring realization in 1972 that he had been typecast as a Scot, and for several years Jimmy had to contend with that. However, as he began to see what a great demand there was for him at Star Trek conventions, and how the fans loved him, he began to relax a bit, realizing that it was far easier to accept his image than to fight against it. The ensuing five films have kept him financially comfortable, if not giving him meatier roles, but he isn't complaining.

It was Jimmy's love of science and technology, as well as his better-known accent, which gave our beloved Mr. Scott his character. When writers found out about Doohan's love for technical journals, they ate it up! Naturally that little titbit found its way into the series, and another facet of the Scotsman was born. Jimmy himself says Scotty is 99% Doohan and 1% accent, and that about sums it up. All the world over, whether people are Star Trek fans or not, it is known what the sign means which reads: "Beam me up, Scotty!" And that is the legacy which James Doohan leaves us - a heartfelt desire for something better and exquisitely special - and for that we are eternally grateful.

Profile by Marcia Pecor

Sources: "The Star Trek Interview Book" (Allan Asherman, Pocket Books 1988)
 "Star Trek, The Official Fan Club" Issue No. 67 (April/May, 1989)
 "Star Trek III Handbook of Production Information"

JAMES DOOHAN ON WOGAN 4/8/89

by Karen Sparks

Jimmy Doohan looked relaxed and well, and Terry Wogan was remarkably polite! TW asked why the ship's engineer had been made Scottish; JD related that at the time he'd tried out 7 or 8 different accents, Gene had asked him which one he liked best, and JD said if he was to be an engineer he would have to be Scottish. TW mentioned that Scotty never got down to the planet, and JD said he had to look after the ship

and stroke the dilithium crystals and keep them warm! JD said doing the show had been great, and the stories good; the cast would sit around a table reading the next 5 scripts and point out the best ones to each other.

The inevitable question was raised about "Trekky conventions". JD said he attends 20 to 25 a year and they are so much fun it's unbelievable. He said people he sees at cons are always smiling and rushing from one episode of something to another. Asked whether the attendees are all people who have grown up with the series and have always been fans, JD said that all age groups are represented, and when at each con he has attended over the past 3 years he has asked how many people are at their first ST con, about 80 to 85% of the hands have gone up.

The "Beam me up, Scotty," catchphrase was discussed and JD told TW it was never said exactly like that. TW suggested having "They beamed him up," inscribed on his gravestone. JD said any time anyone says, "Beam me up, Scotty," after he's dead would be like instant sainthood.

The talk turned to the movies, and JD said he didn't work at all for 2 of the 10 years between the series' end and STTMP because of being typecast. If he walked into a producer's office and was greeted as Scotty, he knew he wouldn't get the job! Asked if he had any ambition to direct a film, JD replied with a definite "No". He attended artillery school at Alton Towers and had to train officers for the invasion, and gave so many orders during that time that he never wants to give anyone orders again; he just wants to be the best actor he knows how to be.

The interview concluded with the "I know this ship like the back of my hand," clip from STV, and JD related the \$200,000 set was built especially for that line, and that the scene had to be shot 5 times, but the beam was backed with styrofoam and rubber so it didn't hurt!

MARINA SIRTIS

"It's taken me years to become an overnight success"

Marina was born in North London to Greek parents. Acting was something she always knew she wanted to do, but her parents had other ideas, and tried to push her into the more 'serious' career of law. After leaving school, she applied secretly to the Guild Hall School of Music and Drama, and was accepted as a student. After graduating, she spent the next few years working in television, repertory and musical theatre throughout England and Europe. This included playing Ophelia in *Hamlet* with the Worthing Rep. Company, and singing in a stage production of *The Rocky Horror Show* which toured major cities of Europe.

Marina moved to Los Angeles in November 1986, in the hope of expanding her career, and landed a part on *Hunter* within ten days of arriving. Other T.V. shows she has worked on include *Call Me Mister* and *Sherlock Holmes*. Her film work includes appearing in *Blind Date* (not the Bruce Willis one; the Kirstie Alley one!) and supporting roles in *The Wicked Lady* with Faye Dunaway, and *Death Wish III* starring Charles Bronson.

Marina is a big rock music fan and attends as many concerts as possible. Her brother is a professional football player, and that sport is another of her great interests, although whilst working in the States where soccer is virtually unknown she has to make do with American football and basketball. She works out a lot in the gym because she reckons she was getting 'chunky' by the end of the first season. (That's chunky?)

Auditioning for *Star Trek: The Next Generation* began for Marina in mid-March 1987, originally for the role of Tasha Yar. After three readings it was decided to try her instead as the empathic, Betazoid Counselor Troi. She read twice more for that part, but by the time her visa ran out in early May, had heard nothing further.

She was actually packing to come home, intending to save up enough money to enable her to go back to the States to try her luck again, when her agent called to tell her she had got the role, and could unpack again! Troi's exotic accent is one of Marina's own devising, and her eyes are green under those black contact lenses. She is pleased to be playing such a sympathetic character, as a change from the 'hard, 1980's stereotype' she is more often cast as, and says that working on *Star Trek* is the best job she's ever had.

Profile by Karen Sparks

Sources; Paramount, Starlog, Starburst

POSTBAG

Please send in your letters of comment and discussion for this section - the more the merrier. If possible could you word your letter for printing or at least indicate that it is meant for the n/l.

Jane Sayle InterCon '78 Committee:

With regard to N/L 5, and Judy Mortimore's "Retrospective: Intercon '78".

The usual high standard of the IDIC newsletter (no faint praise, an honest reaction) has I feel been very badly let-down by this review. It has saddened me a great deal, on behalf of one of the organisers, Margaret Bertram, which is why I would like to offer a few points. Incidentally, I know Margaret Bertram would have been just as surprised as I am to learn that (quote) "the organisers practically disappeared from fandom..."(unquote). !!

- 1 The review is an unjust and imbalanced one for the obvious reasons that Judy clearly did not actually attend very much of the Convention. Her paragraphs 4 & 7 are in fact irrelevant padding - serving only to show that she did not stay at the Hotel, nor attend many of the functions e.g. the Disco, which enjoyed great success. (Ask any Corellian! This was their first appearance, and they became a notorious feature of Trek Cons for years after!) Judy's time seems to have been spent in the Dealers' room selling her zines, and travelling to and from the venue. Also, is not her final paragraph rather impertinent, in devoting itself to a eulogy on her next review topic?
- 2 She cannot find any notes she may have made at the time, which is a pity as she therefore neglects totally to mention the Film programme (run twice over the weekend to cope with the number of people) of S.F. films shown in the Fulcrum's full-size cinema. Since when has another Con offered that facility?
- 3 On the question of assessing a Con as a failure, does she regard the figure of (over the 2 days and including both hotel and day registrations) 600 people as a poor turnout? Also, not one person approached me demanding refunds with menaces, and as a committee member it is the kind of thing one would remember! Perhaps the *Stars Wars* fans Judy mentioned ran across some xenophobic *Star Trek* fans?
- 4 She failed to mention that, while indeed the Hotel was a distance from the Centre, coaches were laid on to transport fans to and fro, at no extra charge to their registration rate. The overspill hotel (yes, we did need one) was within walking distance.
- 5 We certainly did not break even over the weekend, but our financial loss was hardly "Enormous" - British Cons are not meant to be run for profit after all, and very few in those early days did more than scrape through, surely?
- 6 The reason Dot Owens had decided to hold the Manchester Midicon, was to cater for Scottish and Northern fans unable to travel so far south, though in fact she did organise a coach to bring a party down to InterCon. In previous years all the

Cons had been Midlands/North orientated (still are!) an imbalance detrimental to fans from the South and S. West; hence the decision to hold one nearer London. More importantly however, which is not the impression Judy gives, was that the Manchester one was originally planned as just a one-day event, and was arranged months beforehand as these things have to be. Hardly therefore a post-InterCon response to 'fans who felt that the convention had not been to their liking.'

7 The Gerry Anderson photos in the Con book were there because the man himself had allowed the loan of some of the models used in his TV productions, for the Display/Art rooms. These areas were also clearly given a wide berth by the reviewer, because no-one going there could have failed to notice these professional models, nor in fact the superb amateur-made Enterprise which stood at least 5ft high and dominated the room.

8 Incidentally, the name InterCon stood for Inter-Continental, because we had Trek fans from Germany, Holland and even Australia present. Plus some Americans but these were not new to British cons, whereas the fledgeling groups from Europe certainly were.

9 It seems a great pity that Judy is unable to accept the concept of different SF fandoms mixing at a Con. What in later years has become known as Multi-Media conventions and perfectly acceptable. (RecCon, designated as a Star Trek Con had as its principle invited guest one Anne McCaffrey!) It meant that at least InterCon had some guaranteed and affordable guests - and of course we did try for the Trek actors, none of whom were available. Yet Judy damns it as an "Innovation" which leads to "fandom's (??) retreat to the Dealers' Room." Quite how she can deride this anyway, with Nick (Space: 1999) Tate and Mat (Doctor Who et al) Irvine already having been to previous 'Trek' cons.....

(Ed. Convention reports are subjective. We're sure Judy just reviewed InterCon as she remembered it and had no intention of upsetting anyone.)

Trene Ambrose:

Thank you for my first copy of IDIC, which I enjoyed reading, especially the book reviews, as I'm trying to make up my own collection after a period of neglect. I started off in Trek fandom in 1975, and since then have progressed through media fandom, helping to organise media Cons, and back to Trek after several more periods of apathy. Partly due to the apathy, I have little to add to the current debate over Trek:TNG, save to say that I have nothing 'personal' against the new series, just that I prefer the original ship and crew, and prefer to keep it that way.

There is one article in the last newsletter that I would like to comment on, it is the Intercon '78 report. I know that all memories of events are personal, but as mine were so positive, I would like to redress the balance a little.

After three years of travelling to the North and Midlands, a Con in the London area was very welcome, and the Fulcrum Centre, while separate from the Hotel, had marvellous purpose-built facilities. I barely remember the coach shuttle to and from the Hotel, and I don't recall any problems with it.

I appreciated the way the organisers had had the forethought and diversity enough to include other current media as well as the solid 'Trek' foundations of films, competitions, etc. 'Star Wars' and 'Blakes Seven' fans were made welcome, and since they had grown in fandom since the inception of Intercon (they were barely thought of when the Con was planned) it was enjoyable to see friendly and patient guests, who knew that they were at a Star Trek Con and added another dimension to it. So did the Dancing Stormtroopers...to this day, whenever I hear the opening chords of 'Starship Trooper' I remember the Intercon disco, as it was 'our' record before it was anyone else's, literally.

For me, Intercon was one of the most balanced, and more importantly, happy Cons that I have attended, and served as a model several years later when a group of us began organising our own Cons. There may have been negative moments, but I can't

remember them, if there were...

Tina Pole:

I am enjoying the IDIC N/L, it's always packed with so much information, interesting letters etc. I'm especially enjoying Judy Mortimore's old con reports, brings back many happy memories.

Elaine McCue:

Having just recently read 'ST/TNG in the Tail' by Linda Wood in Newsletter 5, I feel I must disagree with her on several points.

One of the first things I liked about TNG when I first saw it was how realistic the ship looked. This view was only heightened when I was lucky enough to visit the set of TNG in 1988, along with Cathy Melrose. On that occasion, we both had trouble remembering we were in a TV studio rather than on a real ship. Neither do I think that the apparent vastness of the Bridge would cause problems in an emergency, for as Picard explains to Wesley in "Encounter at Farpoint", there are backup controls for most major ship's functions on the arms of the Captain's chair.

I cannot understand how anyone can say that TNG is non-violent. In episodes like "Conspiracy" there is an over abundance of violence. Even the second season has several episodes where people die by violent means, eg. "Contagion", "Q Who" and "Where Silence Has Lease" to name but three. Anyway, I do not watch Star Trek to see blood and gore, if I wanted that type of thing, I'd watch Rambo. Nor do I have any desire to see TNG "science fictionalised". That type of thing was tried in the Motion Picture and we all know what the result of that was.

I have always found the characters in the show more than lovable. Who could fail to love Data and admire such a strong willed character as Picard. I have found that the relationships between the characters have developed quite well during the second season. Episodes such as "Measure of a Man" and "Pen Pals" show how strong a bond has developed between this crew, especially between Data and Picard. Although the relationships in TNG are perhaps not as obvious as in the original, I feel we are dealing with far more complex characters here. Anyway, I don't think we want too much of a Kirk/Spock/McCoy type thing in TNG, as people would only say that it was something else pinched from the original.

Personally, I thought "Elementary, Dear Data" was a very original episode. I especially liked the way Moriarty changed from a truly evil character to someone more likeable. Although he had the ability to defeat Data, perhaps in the end he did not wish to. I do wish, however, that the extra scene that Richard Arnold spoke of at the SOL III '89 convention had been left in. It would have made a better ending.

There have been good and bad episodes of TNG as there were in the original. One can hardly compare "Journey to Babel" with "Spock's Brain" for instance. On the whole, the second season of TNG has been a vast improvement on the first and I am sure the third season will be even better. TNG will never replace the original Star Trek nor should it even try to, but for me, it makes a more than worthy companion.

Long may the show continue!

PS: The views expressed in this letter are wholeheartedly supported by the other members of The Away Team!!!

Pat Mitchell:

I feel I must reply to Linda Wood's article in N/L 5.

Why is it that some fans feel that TNG must be a carbon copy of the original series? Why *must* there be a triad of main characters? Why is Picard condemned for not being a Kirk-duplicate? Picard and Riker are not Kirk and Spock, they were never intended to be. TNG is set years after the original series ended. It has evolved from the original series. By definition, evolution involves change. Why is

it, then, that some fans cannot accept change?

Linda asks how many fans feel an emotional attachment to the original series crew but cannot feel it for the TNG crew. I, personally, feel a very strong attachment to Data, Picard and Riker (in that order). Admittedly, it took a few episodes for the attachment to cement but now, they are as much a part of the family, as Kirk, Spock and McCoy. It started first with Data; I loved him from the start - his endearing child-like innocence and desire to emulate Humans coupled with some excellent one-lines - "How does stimulation of the olfactory nerves effect the enjoyment of sex?" (Angel One) - make him absolutely adorable. It took a little longer with Picard and Riker but the attachment is there now. Like many others, I found them wooden at first and Patrick Stewart is the first to admit this was true in the early episodes, they were, after all strangers getting to know each other and their respective roles. That woodenness has gone now and they much more natural.

Picard is a very different captain from Kirk. At first I found myself saying "Kirk wouldn't do this... or that." Now I see it as merely differences in the way they command. Picard is more democratic than Kirk ever was. Kirk takes the whole responsibility of command onto his own shoulders. Picard delegates. I would trust both captains with my life.

One thing I do like with TNG is that Picard does not join the Away Teams (a lovely phrase). Back in the 60's, Kirk lead every landing party because he was the captain and also one of the main characters so he had to have a big part in each episode. In reality the captain would be far too valuable an asset to Starfleet to risk to the unknowns of an initial landing party. Fortunately, Riker is allowed to voice that opinion so, like it or not, Picard stays safely on board. For me, that's much more realistic.

Linda says there is no spark between the members of TNG bridge crew. All I can say is, 'Give them a chance'. I don't know how many episodes she's seen but I defy anyone to watch the second season episode "Measure of a Man" then say there is no spark! The interaction between Data, Picard and Riker is beautifully portrayed in their effort to prove whether or not Data is a sentient being. You only have to watch Riker to know that acting for the prosecution is tearing him apart. His whispered, "Sorry, Data" as he removes Data's arm is brilliantly done. For me, that episode is pure Trek.

I get the feeling that, by admitting to a love of TNG, some fans feel a sense of guilt, a betrayal of all they have ever felt for the original series? Why is this? Isn't it possible to love them both?

I love the original series, I always will, but I also love TNG. I can see the similarities, I can rejoice in the differences. Isn't that what IDIC is all about?

TNG is an entity in its own right. I for one find it exciting and thrilling to be around at the time of its birth.

May it live long... and prosper.

Kathleen Glancy:

I can recall thinking when I first saw "Bread and Circuses" how distorted a view of history it gave in handling the 'alternative history' here. Christianity was not a religion that advocated rebellion against slavery and the only notable slave rising was that led by the pagan gladiator Spartacus, well before Christ was born. Nor did the establishment of Christian countries abolish slavery - especially not in the USA. In some cases the Romans were actually *less* inclined to use slaves than some so-called Christian and civilised countries. Ben-Hur to the contrary, the Romans never used slaves to row galleys. They took the eminently sensible view that if you were going to depend on a group of men to help you dodge pirates (in the case of merchant ships) or fight pirates (in the case of the navy) it was better if they were on your side. The first people to introduce galley slaves were the French, in the 15th century. The King of France bore the papal title 'Most-Christian King.'

Incidentally the episode was a bit odd on mores too. The official religion was presumably the worship of the 12 Olympian Gods, plus assorted local and minor deities, plus Caesar. And yet you gets cars called after Gods. Can anyone imagine, in our own time frame, someone marketing a car called the 'Jesus Christ', or the 'Jehovah' or the 'Allah'? It's equally unlikely that a Roman civilisation perpetuated into the 20th century would call a car the 'Jupiter'.

In answer to Liz Caldwell - yes, probably Spock would have stayed with Zarabeth. He did try to push McCoy through the portal alone. And if he had succeeded that would have been singularly unfortunate for Zarabeth - he was, after all, reverting more and more to savagery. It was quite clear that unless you went through a process of preparation (as presumably Zarabeth had) time travel by this method affected the mind. It worked faster on Spock, most likely because he is one of a telepathic species and the racial consciousness into which he would automatically link was pre-Surak and very violent. So he would have degenerated, and she would have remained rational. I doubt if he would have been very kind to her, or a pleasant companion. And with no McCoy to turn on, she'd be his only target. The first time she annoyed him, and no two people could be completely alone for a long time without ever annoying each other, he'd probably beat her. Very possibly, given his strength, he'd kill her. Incidentally, and two novels to the contrary, I don't see how she could possibly have conceived a child and carried it to term. Not unless she only looks human but has copper-based blood. If they had sex at all, that is. I'm as good at reading between scenes as anyone, and it seems to me rather odd that they didn't undress at all or else put all their clothes on afterwards. It seems likelier that they were still at the preliminary stages when McCoy interrupted them - which gives more reason for Spock's annoyance with him.

David Sparkes:

I still think the original Star Trek is better than the Next Generation. I suppose it is because I have grown up with them, and could not imagine any other characters portrayed in another series. I suppose since I was a child Captain Kirk, Spock and all the original crew have been my idols and will always be! To me nothing on Earth makes up for them. Not to say that I don't like the Next Generation. I still watch it.

Marcia Pecor:

In response to Judy Mortimore's letter (N/L 4), I would love to discuss Star Trek's philosophy. The question is, where the heck do you start? I liked Trek a long time before I began to ask myself 'why?' and I expect I'll like it long after my senile old brain stops saying 'who cares?'. I have ambivalent feelings about The Next Generation, possibly because I'm an unbudgeable sentimentalist, possibly because it just doesn't hold up, point for point, with the old series. Don't hit me!! I.D.I.C., remember?

Seriously, how can we get a discussion going? To go a step further, who out there would be interested in starting a letter campaign to have one more film, Star Trek VI, which gives the original characters the opportunity to tie up loose ends, change careers, finally get those long over-due commands, etc? Something deep, soul-searching and (with apologies to Bill Shatner) directed by Leonard Nimoy? I want to hear from you! I'm willing to initiate such a campaign, but I don't have the mechanics or the know-how. Any suggestions? (Write to Marcia Pecor, 730 Donaghe St., Staunton, VA 24401, USA)

Michael Jan Friedman

I read and re-read "Double, Double", thoroughly enjoying it because of its authenticity. Michael Friedman asked the same question we fans so often do; 'What if?' The book itself was reviewed (from two different viewpoints - great) by Christine Jones and Helen White, so I don't need to add to their critique (I do lean more toward Helen's point of view). However, I thought you might like to know what Michael Jan Friedman had to say about his work when I wrote to him recently. Some brief excerpts from his letter:

Before getting involved with the crew at Pocket Books, I did four heroic fantasy novels for Warner Books' Questar imprint... I'm currently working on a Next Generation novel titled "A Call to Darkness"... In my mind, it was pretty important to get some of (the Next Generation characters) off the bridge and into some sort of conflict with one another (as well as with external forces) in order to construct a good novel. In "A Call to Darkness", I think I'm accomplishing that. At this point, it looks like a November release.

...I'm waiting to hear from Paramount on yet another Next Generation novel, provisionally entitled "Fortune's Light". The idea here, again, is to get a character off the ship and let him go - in this case, it's Riker. I mean, if he's some sort of young Kirk, let's see some of that! If you liked "Double, Double", I think you'll like this one too... probably late 1990. (And that's about it. Aren't you glad you asked?) (Yes, I am, Michael)

As far as writing for the TV show—I'd like to, sometime in the near future. But in fairness to the writers, some of them are good. Melinda Snodgrass is certainly a good one. But Paramount has forced them to work within some ridiculous constraints.

In the meantime, thanks for the plug in I.D.I.C. (Ahem! I did promise!) Every little bit helps. Hope to see you at some convention or other. And yes—I am a man.

Yours, Michael Jan Friedman

If anyone would like to correspond with Michael, you may reach him at: Mr. Michael Jan Friedman, c/o Pocket Books, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020, USA Editor: Dave Stern

(Ed: If you are interested in taking part in the Letter Campaign Marcia describes please contact her directly and not IDIC. Naturally we want STVI as well but not necessarily the same type of film Marcia does - in fact the three of us would probably disagree with each other as to who we want as Director. Maybe some of you would like to write and give us your ideas for STVI.)

Karen Sparks:

The N/L is going from strength to strength and I enjoy each one more than the last. No. 5 was especially impressive for the great variety of subjects discussed in the Postbag.

I'm finding the articles on fandom in other countries very interesting and they make me realise just how lucky we really are over here - I know we all grouse about the BBC (banning 4 episodes, not showing the series often enough or TNG soon enough), and about ITV (cutting scenes from TWOK), but compared to fans abroad, we don't really get such a raw deal - and I must try to remember that the next time I find myself gnashing my teeth in envy at (eg) a Creation Con. report! It just shows how powerful the magic of Star Trek is when fandom lives in countries where episodes and films are cut, changed or not shown at all.

I always particularly enjoy the zine reviews, and with the arrival of each N/L, my list of zines I absolutely must buy gets longer and longer! I also thought Valerie's article on story submissions was a brilliant idea, and hopefully will encourage new writers to take the big step of sending off that precious first submission - the first one is always the hardest!

On to STV; I don't agree with Mimi English's view that not finding out who the god-being was is bad editing - rather, I would say, interesting writing. To me, it doesn't matter where it came from - and nor did it bother me that nothing was ever known about the probe threatening Earth in STIV - in fact for me, that enigma was one of the strengths of a film that had little enough else to recommend it, but I know I'm in a minority with that opinion. In life we don't (and I hope never will) know the answers to all mysteries, so why should we in ST? I think it is better to occasionally have things left to the imagination.

In a tremendous fit of absent-mindedness, I nearly bought Diana Carey's 'The Final Frontier' today, under the impression that it was the film novelisation. I was actually standing in the queue to pay for it before realisation dawned - I'd thought it was unusual for W H Smith to have got it in so early, too!

I have a premonition that the synopsis of stories in MAKE IT SO 37 will read something like, 'Why did Crusher leave the Enterprise, come back, leave, come back, leave and then come back again? All writers are totally baffled and unanimously consign her to the Federation Funny Farm.'

Oriel Cooper:

I like TNG - the episodes I have seen, anyway, and am having a uniform made for me to parade at Midcon in Leicester in November - I only hope it's easier to get in and out of than the ST jump suit I was wearing last year! The tales I could tell... (My thanks to the unknown who rescued me in the Ladies.)

Speaking of Midcon, I heard a rumour that Denise Crosby had to pull out as guest speaker this year because Paramount vetoed her going as her character had been well and truly killed off - unlike Dr. Crusher who were merely transferred and from what we hear may be back again in the third season. Has anyone else heard this? I notice Kirsty Alley doesn't seem to do any cons nowadays; Saavik wasn't killed off, but the actress was replaced by Robin Curtis. Any theories, anyone?

As far as ST V is concerned, I look forward to seeing the original crew in action again and sincerely hope it will not be the last in the series. I shall wait to see the film before I judge it - that seems only fair to all those involved - including the FX people. Seriously, it seems pointless to condemn something before you've seen it!

I notice in your last N/L that Pocket Books and Titan are finally putting out a new classic novel, 'Cry of the Onlies'. About time too! At least the TNG novels have been thicker on the ground, though of varying quality.

Cynthia Philippi:

I am the president of the local fan club here in Santa Rosa, California. We are called "USS ATHENA" and we really enjoy your newsletter. We especially enjoy reading the European views of Star Trek. We are often surprised and humoured on European thoughts and accounts of the show and more often saddened to hear about the terrible editing jobs you folks get over there.

I just received IDIC newsletter number five and wanted to address Fiona McOran-Campbell and her problems of her parents not understanding her love for Star Trek. Take heart my friend. I am 25, and my parents still don't understand me. When I was 15, I grew so lonely for other Star Trek friends that I wrote a letter to the president of Star Trek: San Antonio (Texas, where I lived at the time) and told her much of the same thing I see you writing about in the IDIC. She told me her parents still tell her that someday, she will outgrow Star Trek. The only problem is that she is now 55. Star Trek is NOT 'comic strip rubbish' and there is nothing better that you can do with your time than to absorb the social lessons taught in the show and pass them on to your own children. Valuable lessons like how to see through the insanities of war and stop it. Lessons on the equality of all human beings and the respect for life. The roles of a responsible governmental system and the many universal truths discussed in the series that can help us make our world a better place for all. Especially the philosophy of IDIC itself. Infinite Diversity and Infinite Combinations. I believe it was in the episode "Is there in Truth no Beauty?" where Dr. Miranda Jones and Mr. Spock said:

"The glory of creation is in its infinite diversity."

"And in the way our differences combine to create meaning and beauty."

Surely, Fiona, this kind of philosophy is worth your parents' attention. It speaks of learning to value the differences we see in others and allowing our lives to be enriched by them instead of decimating those people for being different.

If you get bold, purchase the book "Star Trek Speaks" and offer it for your parents' inspection. If you can get them to take a look at it, perhaps they will begin to see what you and I see in the show and become a member of our family.

Don't ever give up your love for Star Trek. Its lessons will no doubt be a great service to you in future.

P.S. I don't think Wesley is that bad anymore either.

Helen White:

I've got a query for members. I went to my local Ritz video shop today, to get 'Encounter at Farpoint' again. (It may be not too amazing as TNG goes, but it's the only TNG they have) Oh dear, it's not there. The woman tells me that Ritz aren't buying any more TNG because CIC have released 9 tapes?! Slightly twisted logic, perhaps, but I can see her point. However, she goes on to tell me that they have taken all the TNG tapes that they *already had* off the shelves! Really sensible, eh. Are all Ritz shops doing the same? The thought has occurred to me that perhaps CIC want a bigger market for the sell-through tapes, but even so, lots of people can't afford those.

Freda Boydell:

Saw "Moontrap" the day it was released on video... it was O.K. but not one I'll watch over and over, I'm afraid. Just watched the last 4 episodes of TNG... nothing remarkable about them apart from the final episode "Shades of Gray". This was remarkable only for its awfulness! It consisted solely of Riker and his dreams (ie flashbacks to both 1st and 2nd season episodes)... acceptable, if you're a Riker fan, I suppose, but there's no story to speak of, and precious little about anyone else! Must have been a very cheap way to shoot an episode and it's criminal to finish a season this way! No marks out of 10, at all!

[Janet: It make a great trivia test though - see how long it takes you to identify each episode. Boast - I managed them all within 5 seconds.]

Suzanne Shalabi:

I've just read N/L 5. I agree completely with Linda Wood; what she wrote reflected my beliefs and ideas about TNG.

I see from what Karin Embacher has written that the episode 'Patterns of Force' didn't appear on Austrian television, along with Germany, which also didn't show it. Israel concentrated on 'Patterns of Force', and the reason seems obvious. 'Patterns...' shows a Nazi-run planet. Germany maybe didn't want to show the bad side of the coin, while Israel wanted to see something that seemed to concern its people.

Well, folks - Israel has made a new series. It's about Star Trek, but the stories are strange. They brought in an actor who looks like a Data/Spock and who 'beams down' to Israel to help Israeli children to train themselves to win every contest and prove that they are the best. He makes camps with them and tells them about the 'glory' of their country. And what of IDIC? Relationships? Trek philosophy? Respect for new life forms? Respect for diversity? None of these things is found in that series.

I see that many members do not like ST 5, and their number is increasing. Well, of course I respect their point of view, and ST 5 may indeed be bad. But I do not advise anyone to write when (s)he is angry; that affects the way of writing. My dad - who doesn't like Star Trek at all - told me that 'the popularity of a programme vanishes when it is hardly praised by its own fans'. If we - the Star Trek fans - discourage other people from seeing the film, we are the ones that will cause damage to our beloved programme. I also do not see any point in some fans saying, "Who's brought Sybok there?" The script writers - and the story writers - hardly need fans to help them with the story! I don't really know how to say it, but the fans aren't supposed to tell the film makers what to do. I do not - cannot - think why we are accusing something that Gene Roddenberry approves with 'It's not Star Trek'!

Before I go, I feel that I must praise Kay Stagg for her zine Mutara. It was great - very well written - especially the story 'Operation Phoenix'. It was great, only I wonder how the crew of the Enterprise, after going back in time, landed on the ship before it self-destructed, and found no Klingons? Nevertheless, I recommend this zine.

Teresa Abbott

I found the articles reviewing STV very interesting (lucky people who've seen it.)

For me personally, the two worst paragraphs IN THE BOOK, are where Spock thinks of Sybok as

... 'someone who was once closer to me than either of you' (ref. to Kirk and McCoy), and later on, where Spock speaks to Sybok using the
.. 'intimate pronoun - the one reserved for one's t'hyla, one's closest friend or relative.'

I object in principle to the sudden introduction of a half-brother who is so important to Spock. I hope these comments are only in the book, and not in the film, so I'll be able to ignore them.

With regard to Sandi Cayless's comment about my letter in N/L 4 containing a sexist comment. As I'm sure she really understands, I didn't mean that women are INCAPABLE of understanding and appreciating the technical side of the series, just less inclined to prefer that side of it.

Most of the zine stories that I like best have been written by women, as they explore the in-depth personalities and feelings of the characters, whereas men will generally write stories that are action-adventure based. This IS a generalisation, and she may decry the fact, but you only have to analyse the contents of 5 or 6 zines to see this is true.

It's even more true of the novels. I've just recently started a book by a male author, where he makes comment early on to the effect that,
'... Kirk thought Spock was quite a good officer, really, and it would be a bit of a shame to lose the totally unemotional Vulcan if he should ever be transferred.'
I'm afraid that with that perception of the relationship, I'm not all that interested in the intricate details of the battle with the Klingons which follows.

This DOESN'T make me right, and him wrong, as we all get pleasure out of the series in our own way, and perhaps we should put it down as another facet of I.D.I.C.

Incidentally, I think this also answers Ray Dowsett's question as to why statistically there are more women interested in S.T. than in S.F. in general. It is precisely because, unlike most science fiction, S.T. draws together a unique collection of characters, particularly the triadic Kirk/Spock/McCoy relationship which we never tire of analysing. I would be very interested to know how someone like Ray perceives this relationship.

The point of all this, is that I STILL think women as a whole will be less satisfied with the new series than the men, because of the lack of characters with whom one can become totally emotionally involved. Surely the way to settle the argument is to ask the male readers to write in and give us THEIR views on TNG.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Katrina Heintz asks where she can get out of print ST novels.

Two possibilities come to mind. First, try contacting the bookshops listed at the end of the newsletter as they often carry some of the older books. If you have no luck there put in an advert for the books you want in the newsletter as a member may have a spare copy.

Do any members have any other ideas about how to get out-of-print books?

Helen White asks why Titan have released 5 reprints in a row instead of alternating old and new original series novels.

No, Helen, it isn't just that they are trying to catch up with Pocket Books. Pocket Books haven't released any new original series novels in the last few months. Their most recent release is the novelisation of STV by J. M. Dillard. Pocket Books are due to release 'The Lost Years' by J.M. Dillard on October; unfortunately it will be in hardback. 'Cry of the Onlies' by Judy Klass should also be released in paperback around October hopefully.

STAR TREK V: THE FINAL FRONTIER - COMMENTS

Janet Quarton:

I was lucky enough to see the special preview of STV and what can I say other than I loved it. At last here is a film that feels like 'Trek' to me. My previous favourite was ST-TMP but I think of it more as a brilliant SF film as I don't accept Kirk giving up his ship, Spock going back to Vulcan etc. What I did love in ST-TMP was the music and it was great hearing it again, along with some new themes, in STV. I've seen as much TNG as anyone but unlike Marcia I didn't find any problem with the same theme being used.

I don't feel competent to judge Shatner as a director but I can say that his directing worked for me. Maybe it is more like a TV episode than a film; if it is that could be one of the reasons I like it. I thought the plot wasn't too bad although a lot was not explained, which was why I was glad I was able to read the book first. It meant I could just relax and enjoy the film. The humour worked just fine for me, not over the top like some of the humour in STIV. I also preferred McCoy in STV. He annoyed me in STIV by making stupid comments. I know he did this at times in the series but they seem to have picked up on this and played it to death in the films. There was only once McCoy annoyed me in STV and that was when he was making stupid comments when Spock was obviously upset and Kirk was trying to find out more about Sybok. Other than that, as far as I remember, he was fine. My trouble is that I'm very fond of McCoy and, for me, he comes over as far too shallow in the films.

Looking at it more objectively I doubt the film will appeal to non-Star Trek fans. I think they would miss too much. As to whether it will appeal to other ST fans, that could depend on what attracts them to Star Trek. I think most Kirk/Spock/McCoy relationship fans will love it; it is as if Shatner has given the film to the fans as a present. Fans of other characters may feel they do not get enough screen time.

Kathleen Glancy:

I've seen it. Ick, ick, ick. William Shatner is not a good director, on the strength of this outing. Certainly not in Leonard's class. I would not have believed that anything could be worse than the playing of 'Amazing Grace' at Spock's funeral in TWOK. That always struck me as the tops for inappropriate music. Leaving aside that the correct thing to play at service funerals is 'The Flowers of the Forest' or the appropriate lament if the regiment has a clan connection, 'Amazing Grace' would only be relevant if the deceased had been a Christian, which Spock was not. However, I have to say that 'Row, row, row your boat' made me sicker.

I am not going to say one more word about those boots.

Sheila Clark:

An overnight trip by bus to London, when Rocky 4 is being played on the bus video at 2 am, is not normally to be recommended (I always knew I had a good reason for avoiding Sylvester Stallone movies! Now I know what it is.) However, the trip was well worth the exhaustion and lack of sleep (well, you try sleeping through Rocky 4!) and the march through London's nearly-deserted streets at 7 am looking for somewhere to have breakfast.

The reason? A showing of Star Trek 5, fully three months ahead of the UK opening.

I had already read and enjoyed the book, thanks to American member Mimi English who sent us over a copy before it was available in this country, and enjoyed it. Richard Arnold had assured us that JM Dillard had not been allowed to add too much of her own to the plot, so I was reasonably certain that there wouldn't be huge chunks that I'd read missing from the actual movie.

As for the movie itself - what can I say? I enjoyed the book; I therefore expected to enjoy the film, and I did. Seeing it in the company of two hundred and fifty other fans probably helped; we all knew the references that non-fans would completely miss, so we could all enjoy the 'in' jokes; the atmosphere in the cinema was marvellous.

There is, I feel, a great deal of character inter-relationship in this movie at a depth that was missing from the previous films. That alone is enough to prejudice me in its favour, I admit. I felt that it moved well; looking back, I can't think of any major criticisms I would level at it.

There are, almost inevitably, a few little niggles; for example, I disagree totally with something Sybok says, for example, round which an important part of the plot revolves. I disagree with the set-up on Nimbus - not the philosophy behind the settlement of the planet, but with the method that appears to have been used, to say nothing of the planet selected. And I think they could have found a more... let's say, picturesque setting for the scenes towards the end of the movie. On the other hand, I didn't feel there were enormous holes in the plot the way I did with TWOK, even although some things are not properly explained. However, the book fills in those gaps; without going into too much extraneous detail, it provides explanations for some of the irritating little omissions I became aware of.

Mr. Shatner's direction has been criticised as being too much influenced by his television directing experience, and I can see what is meant by that. Film, TV and stage directing are not all the same; stage directing has to remember a very limited set, TV directing can spread itself a little more and film directing can look at a very broad scenario. This film makes less use than it might of wide panoramas; but then it is about people and their reaction to each other, and I found that the TV-style approach worked for me.

I enjoyed the music. I found the music for the last three movies instantly forgettable; but here, Jerry Goldsmith has reworked the music that was used for ST-TMP and later, TNG, and once again, I think, we've got a memorable score.

My recommendation? See the film, read the book, then see the film again. And then make up your mind whether or not you like it.

Freda Boydell:

Having been fortunate to attend the recent showing of Star Trek V, Colin and I thought it was brilliant... the humour was over the top but even funnier for that! I thought the levitation boots were a great idea... I want some!! Any offers? Sybok was believable as a renegade Vulcan... he played a good part although everyone succumbed to him rather readily. It wasn't a terribly strong story but the cast carried it well. Having only seen the film once, we're eager to see it again now... which has to be a good sign!

Valerie Piacentini:

For me one of the great tests of a film is how much of it remains in my visual memory. It is now several weeks since my viewing of Star Trek V, and I find that I do have a number of very strong impressions.

First, I think it is basically a happy film. The characters seem relaxed and at ease with one another. Kirk, Spock and McCoy have some really wonderful moments: the expression on Kirk's face when Spock refuses to follow Sybok; Spock's,

"Are we having a good time?"; McCoy's acknowledgement that no-one is listening to him; these are only three of many.

The other regulars have their scenes, too: Sulu and Chekov lost on shore leave, and their reaction to Vixis; the relationship between Uhura and Scotty, which I see as friendly, not romantic; another classic line for Scotty.

The Klingons, too, are really memorable, especially the Captain's apology - would you ever have imagined that tone of voice from a Klingon? Sadly, the Romulan girl didn't come over as strongly.

As regards the special effects, I wasn't sure what to expect after some of the comments from America, but I can't say they disappointed me. The crash of the shuttlecraft, and Kirk's confrontation with the Klingon ship, were especially enjoyable. It may have been a mistake to have the 'god planet' so barren when the crew beamed down, but the creation of the 'temple' was striking. Perhaps I don't watch with a sufficiently critical eye, but then, I was in a mood to be entertained, not to pick fault.

Overall, my main criticism would be that I don't agree that *everyone* hides a pain that poisons their lives; we all have things that with hindsight we'd do differently, but I do think that this point was over played. More, even those who did suffer seemed to capitulate too easily; Uhura and the others who *did* have such a pain would be grateful to Sybok, but would not, I feel, betray Kirk for him. I would have welcomed the implication that a degree of control was involved as well.

I liked that fact that there were no villains. Sybok acted from the best of motives, and the Klingon Captain could only be sympathised with! It looks as though the Organians were right.

One final memory. After all the fun in fan fiction over the years about where are the loos on the Enterprise, someone must have listened. Guess what Kirk sat on in the brig?

I could go on for pages, but won't. Those of you who have seen the film have your own memories, those who still have that pleasure to come will find plenty to interest, amuse, entertain and thrill you. Obviously, we can't all like the same things, but I feel really sorry for anyone who didn't enjoy Star Trek V; while not faultless, it reminded me of a really good original series episode. Sometimes I wonder just what people want; perfection is a rare commodity, folks. I want to see this film again - soon - and I can only say to those of you who haven't yet seen it, I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Finally, with the appearance of Harve Bennett in Star Trek V, there seems to be a glaring omission. Surely the man who above all others is responsible for Star Trek ought to be represented on screen? Paramount, how about a cameo appearance for Gene Roddenberry?

Isabella Mischok:

I want to give me opinion about STV: Because of the rumours, i.e. for example the existence of Spock's Brother, I was prepared for everything - at least it was a ST-film which I wanted to see. But it was never anything I had imagined - it was a far, far better thing than all the films having anything to do with ST. This film is rather a TV-episode of the series than a film itself, only the length is extended.

The plot is quite simple: Someone (Sybok) is looking for the real truth, has a certain conviction and tries to convince others... This group is searching for God and uses the Enterprise as a means to find him. This is, of course, a horrible oversimplification of the contents, but I think the plot is not the important thing of the film. From my point of view it is only necessary to give an impressive picture of the "Enterprise-family", that is for example the growing friendship between Kirk, Spock and McCoy, or the mutual understanding between Sulu and Uhura.

(those who have already seen the film know which scene I am referring to; I do not want to tell all the jokes right now).

STV is full of jokes and I think it is one of the funniest "episodes" presented. In addition there is not too much cruelty; and even the Klingons are no longer the "bad devil of the universe" - a fact leading perhaps to the Klingon-Federation-Alliance some years later (thanks to TNG) - the party aboard the Enterprise is a proof of that (Scotty had not imagined to ever drink with a Klingon...)

Furthermore, STV is necessary to watch for all who adore Leonard McCoy. STV turned out to be the best piece for him and he is all himself: the good-humoured, ever-grumbling country-doctor who rarely does what is expected of him (sorry that Kirk spoiled the great times of his well-earned shore-leave). But the film also shows some of the ethical problems a doctor has to deal with; and we learn that McCoy had practised euthanasia in order to let his father die in peace and dignity. Although STV is foremost a funny film, it also gives us some food for thought; even the question of the existence of God is seriously discussed. In the end Kirk presents an interesting solution.

Well, I hope I made some of you curious enough to run to the cinema as soon as the film is presented (if you weren't that already). There are of course certain points to criticize, and I know that not everybody is as enthusiastic about the film as I am, but in spite of these scenes I think STV is wonderful.

And if you watch the film please pay attention to the scene, when Spock (together with Kirk and McCoy) fires the rockets of the antigrav-boots: I think the levels have a wrong order (40-50-42-7? ???).

Maybe the K/S fans are also pleased with the film: "Please, Jim, not in front of the Klingons!! At least they've found each other, n'est pas? I wonder whether Shatner or someone else of the actors proposed to put something like that into the film, or if it was merely "accidental". I tend to think it was not.

And I hope that STVI (I am sure that will come) does not contain another Voyager (our last one is blasted by a young Klingon and as far as I remember there was another one calling himself V'ger...). Please, no more of them!

But until then: enjoy STV.

Karen Sparks:

A First Impression of Star Trek V

I went to see this film not expecting a great deal - and was very pleasantly surprised. The bits I'd been doubtful about were no worse than I'd been prepared for, and the rest was very much better. I found myself drawn into the film right from the very powerful opening scene on Nimbus III. Laurence Luckinbill's acting is so convincing that it's only before and after seeing the film that it seems improbable for Spock to have had a half brother all this time - whilst actually watching him it seems quite reasonable. I think Sybok is an excellent character in his own right; his absolute, unshakable faith in what he believes is all the more disturbing because we know it exists like that in people with power to change the world.

I suppose the Sulu/Chekov/Uhura fans might be disappointed at the smaller than usual parts given to them, but for me Star Trek is about the unique friendship between Kirk, Spock and McCoy, and I found the film more satisfying than any of the others because of the way it focussed on this. In particular, the maturing of the relationship between Spock and McCoy is something I have wanted to see for a long time, and the scene where McCoy defends Spock against Kirk's anger is, I think, one of the best in the film. De Kelley gives a very special performance throughout, and I felt I was reliving the death of his father with him. That scene worked for me - and yet the scene of Spock reliving his most painful memory didn't seem right at

all. I can't - don't want to - believe that the deepest pain Spock carries around with him is imagining how Sarek might have reacted at his birth - wouldn't, for example, thinking he had killed Kirk in Amok Time, or seeing Kirk being conned into giving up the Enterprise and being put behind a desk have hurt more? (I was also less than convinced by the ritual surrounding the event - for the supposedly first birth of a Vulcan/Human hybrid, I'd have thought a little evidence of medical staff and equipment might have been more appropriate for a logical, civilised race than a red-lit cave!)

I know that humour is a very personal concept, but on the whole, I did find this film funny (with the possible exception of the Supermanesque rescue of Kirk on El Cap.) It is *Trek* humour which can be appreciated most when you have known and loved the characters for a long time - your average member of the public going to see this will miss out on a lot of the jokes.

I thought the fight scenes were overlong, but I never do like them. I didn't have any complaints over the special effects, but I do tend to concentrate on watching the actors, rather than what's going on around them. I am getting distinctly bored with the Klingons providing the antagonism *all* the time - how about the Romulans for a change, or even a new race? - but the actions of the Klingon Ambassador might have been the first seed sown of the peace between the Klingon Empire and the Federation which is seen in *TNG*. The film is very fast paced, so much so that I felt quite exhausted when it ended, as if I'd been through the whole adventure with them all.

And the best, the very best part of watching a new *Trek* film with other fans (the first time I have done so) was that no-one even moved until the very last credit had rolled and the last note of music had died away!

Ruth Kurz:

Denise and I did go see *Trek 5* and I really enjoyed it the second time when I could just enjoy the characters and not worry about the plot. There's a lot to like in the interplay. Fans over here seem to like it - with reservations on the plot. I recommend reading the book first to explain all the characters and background that are not really touched in the movie. It worked for Denise, who was able to enjoy it more.

Some things I like about *Trek 5*: the beginning in the desert with the blue horse, all of Yosemite, all interplay between characters, Uhura's dance, Uhura and Scotty, Kirk and Spock dialogue, "Not in front of the Klingons", marshmallows, "Are we having fun yet?" (well, not quite, but close.)

REC-CON

by Sheila Clark

Back to the good old Dragonara, 'home' of so many conventions in the past... What if it is now renamed the Hilton and has a refurbished reception area? It was still a nostalgic return. So many things hadn't changed - including the run three-times-round-the-centre-of-Leeds trying to get into the correct lane to allow us to drive down Bishopgate, and the lift that broke down half way through Saturday.

We were greeted at the door by Karen Sparks and a doorman with a trolley - she had warned him that her friends would need one. He took us to Reception and left us with a porter while he went back to find us a parking space in the car park. And that was typical of the general attitude of the staff of the hotel; friendly and helpful.

While Janet and I were booking in and putting the car to bed, Karen, Frances Abernethy and Lorraine Goodison of my 'chain gang' helped Valerie set out the sales table - thanks, girls. Then we sat back and relaxed. There was a 'beach party' on

the Friday night, but we only saw a few minutes of it about the time Janet took Shona and Cindy out for their last run of the day. (I don't think Karen has quite recovered from the shock of seeing us carry both dogs down the escalator - the doors from the lift were closed for the night.)

After breakfast (£8.25 if you were paying!) we returned to the sales room. We were next to the con's instant bankruptcy maker - Gytha North - with her jewellery and dragon T-shirts... Valerie succumbed to the lure of an amber bracelet and the chain gang got me a T-shirt for Christmas (I chose it, but I won't get it till then). The sales room was as hot as Vulcan, and again we have reason to be grateful to Karen and Frances, who both kept us supplied with cold drinks.

As I've said before, we don't often see much of a con outside the sales room; however, when we went for lunch, I looked into the hall and caught a couple of minutes of Mr. Cohen's talk. It was on evolution, and he clearly doesn't think much of the basic design of Terran life! I would have liked to catch his other talk, but unfortunately it was after we left. We then went in to hear Richard Arnold talking about ST 5. Of course, only a few people there had seen it, so there was a great deal he couldn't say for fear of spoiling it for everyone else; we didn't hear Todd Bryant (Captain Klaa), the main guest, but he was under the same handicap. For that reason, I can't help but feel that it was a mistake inviting a guest actor from ST 5 to a con that was held before the film opened.

The fancy dress on Saturday night had fewer entrants than I've seen, but they were all good. Lyn Muir's group did well with 'The Seven Ages of Fan' - their script for this will be in IDIC LOG 1. Jim Pauley came as the Joker and was really excellent. (Don't forget the Joker.) We then went to the Enterprise Originals room party which broke up about 11.30. Janet took the dogs out and Valerie and I went to get ready for bed. We were just undressed when the fire alarm went - the almost obligatory false alarm that so many cons have suffered. Anyway, we pulled some clothes on, grabbed our bags (and Janet's) and our bears and headed out, followed by a call from a hotel employee - "I wouldn't worry, this happens all the time". There were others behind us on the stair, and although we weren't hurrying we pulled ahead of most of them. Outside there were already three fire engines, and when the fourth arrived it got a rousing cheer. Meanwhile, the Joker was getting his photo taken with the firemen... Apparently when the first firemen arrived they went dashing up the escalator... and met the Joker coming down. We were only outside for two or three minutes, then as we crowded back in a group started singing a certain song that is in ST 5 and sang it over and over all the way back into reception.

What Janet is unlikely ever to let me forget is that in my hurry to collect our bags, I forgot to pick up the blooper reel...

Richard's second talk, on TNG, was to be on the Monday, but he swapped a Sunday morning slot with Todd so we caught it. Now on the Friday while I was en route to Glasgow to pick up Janet and Valerie, I had the radio on, and on the John Dunn programme there was a mention that the top American astronomers, etc, were having a party to celebrate Voyager's passing Titan - and the Star Trek actors and Gene Roddenberry were also there. Richard confirmed this, saying that the party was actually on the Star Trek lot, and that he too would have been at it had it not been for the con - and he was applauded when he said he considered the con more important. He couldn't say much about the third season, but he did tell us that Patrick Stewart has what amounts to script approval over his own lines, and that he has polished his lines - Richard mentioned one scene in Measure of a Man in particular. Most of the rest of what he said concerned a change in the material of which the costumes are made, etc.

Unfortunately, we had to leave almost immediately after that to get back to Glasgow in time for Janet's bus.

I thoroughly enjoyed the con, and was very sorry to leave it so early. It's said you can never go back, but this time I think we did. I hope another group decides to choose the good old Dragonara (Hilton) for a con - soon.

SOME REC-CON GUEST TALKS by Karen Sparks

Todd Bryant

Todd Bryant, guest of honour at Rec-Con, appears in STV as the Klingon Captain Klaa. During his Saturday talk he told of how he began working in films at the tender age of 12 as a stuntman like his father. He enjoyed this work, especially as it got him out of going to school - he attended stunt school instead, which was much more fun! Then as he grew older he began to intersperse his stuntwork with minor acting roles, and after he was knocked out severely enough to cause concussion and require stitches during the fifth take of an 'I know this ship like the back of my hand' type stunt, he decided the work was too dangerous and concentrated full time on acting. He appeared briefly in STII as the crewman who rolls under the heavy (1 ton!) wall as it comes down automatically during the red alert in engineering, and is also seen being shoved aside by Kirk during his frantic dash to get to the dying Spock. Todd only got about 2 hours sleep the night before the first day of filming STV because he was so excited and worked up about the part, and consequently kept dozing off between takes and had to be woken up by Bill Shatner! Since finishing STV Todd has guest-starred on MURDER SHE WROTE and PARADISE, along with a couple of other shows which we don't get over here - his roles have been mostly baddies!

Richard Arnold

On Friday night Richard Arnold chatted for an hour and answered questions on the differences between American and British cons. American cons are run for profit not for charity, they are of course much bigger with more major guest stars, and run for a much shorter time, usually from about 10 am to 6 or 7 pm, Sat. and Sun. only; there are none of these bank holiday 4 day weekend marathons that we have - apparently the hotel bars are never even opened because they charge such a high fee for the privilege! They don't usually have any of the other traditional (for us) con events like quizzes, auctions, fancy dress, con booklets or discos etc, and there aren't even places for sitting around to chat to friends. He said British fans are generally more reserved and polite than our American counterparts, and tend to treat our cons as weekend long parties rather than expecting to be entertained, and he said he enjoys coming to them a great deal - he must do; he missed the Voyager II party held at Paramount for the astronomers, scientists and both casts of Star Trek to be with us!

He related several con experiences of members of both Star Trek casts. De Forest Kelley has decided not to attend any more cons because Carolyn's bad hip is making it more difficult for her to move around and he doesn't want to leave her. Leonard Nimoy is currently too busy with directing commitments to attend cons, and Bill Shatner is *hoping* to be too busy with directing to go to any! Jimmy Doohan still goes to as many as he can and loves them. LeVar Burton has attended only one con, which was before TNG aired, and got such a bad reception that he has said he will never attend another one. It was suggested that he should be invited to a British con, since we are reputed to be a little gentler on our guests, and Richard said it was certainly worth a try. Brent Spiner is to attend his first ever con soon, in the States, to be followed by one in New Zealand. He will go out of make-up and uniform, but is allowing no cameras or videos or tape recorders in the hall, and apparently fans are to be searched at the door to make sure they comply! Gates McFadden also refuses to be videotaped after an occasion when she related several anecdotes which she would never have done if she had realised she was being taped, and the offending tapes were subsequently copied and sold quite widely, causing her some embarrassment.

Dr. Jack Cohen

Dr. Jack Cohen opened his Saturday talk with a message from Anne McCaffrey saying she was sorry she could not be there with us. Apparently all her family have suffered from heart problems at a much earlier age than she is now, and when she had a 'little episode' recently, the worst was feared and she was rushed into hospital and all her engagements for the next six months were cancelled as a precaution.

However it was only a very minor problem and she is fine now, and champing at the bit because they won't let her go anywhere! She is working on a new book, which is good news.

Jack Cohen is a university lecturer in reproductive biology who worked with Anne to create her dragons, and has also worked with other SF authors like David Gerrold, James White, Larry Niven and Harry Harrison, putting the science into their aliens. He gave a talk on "Science in SF, or the sex life of tribbles" which lasted about an hour and was illustrated with slides. He was a very witty speaker and his basic message was that however weird an alien anyone tries to invent, however apparently unlikely their habits and methods of reproduction (including tribbles being born pregnant), it, or something damn close to it, already exists somewhere here on Earth. One of his maxims is that scientists ought to read SF to learn how to do science, because it would broaden their minds. Another is an adaptation of Sturgeon's Law (90% of everything is crap) - If you don't think 90% of everything is crap, your standards need adjusting upwards! He invited people to read a short article he had written about how to create aliens scientifically, and to bring ideas and sketches to his second talk on Sunday to be discussed.

RETROSPECTIVE: MIDICON '78

by Judy Mortimore

This event was intended as a mini-convention, but one way and another it snowballed and in fact was the first indication that this country had enough Trek fans and enough enthusiasm for two large annual conventions to be successful. Held in Manchester on the 28th and 29th October, the convention had a very basic single programme including the episodes 'City on the Edge of Forever', 'Shore Leave' and the blooper reel, and two British guests, film critic Philip Strick and Dave McGee, who talked about the shuttle launch.

I have many memories of this convention, not the least is the fact that I had no transport and was forced to transport the entire stock of my club's merchandise from London to Manchester in a shopping trolley. Astonishingly, both I and the trolley survived the experience, and eventually arrived at the convention hotel, the Portland, to discover another problem - the hotel had double-booked most of the rooms, with a bunch of rowdy Rugby supporters! This led to an interesting mix within the hotel, numerous people finding themselves sent by reception to rooms that were already occupied (the 'excess' Trek fans were ultimately shipped off to another hotel - notice they didn't move the Rugby fans!) and some decidedly odd 'close encounters' in the lifts.

I described the foyer of the hotel in the report I wrote at the time as 'well, not impressive - more upper-class homely', and the dealers' room turned out to be very small and its single door (fire wardens would have had a field day with this hotel!) kept getting jammed shut, usually with the dealers on the inside and the prospective buyers on the outside, not an ideal situation by any manner of means! On one occasion, the offending door was only reopened after a young man with a penknife undertook extensive surgery on the carpet underlay, with the hotel staff in the foyer outside just standing watching. Extra tables were somehow jammed in, leading to an access situation for dealers that involved either climbing over them or crawling underneath - again, not ideal if the dealer in question was wearing a Star Fleet uniform.

A highlight of Saturday's programme was a tape recording especially sent by Gene Roddenberry to STAG explaining the latest situation with regard to the first movie, by then confirmed filming - "Everyone seems to agree that Captain Kirk's entry onto the bridge of the Enterprise after being absent for all of these years, when those elevator doors open and he stands there and the camera goes in on his face... it is a real gripping moment. Anyone who's been in love with the vessel and a certain way of life will understand totally what it means to him." It was a

pleasure and a privilege for us that Mr. Roddenberry took the time to send this tape, which was received with a standing ovation.

The fancy dress had a very good turn-out; prizes were awarded to Ian Watson as a 'close encounters' alien; Linda Bennett as the Nightingale Woman from 'Where no Man...' - best TV SF costume: Christine Hambley as Natira; and Donna Nixon as Sherlock Holmes' cleverer brother. Another memorable costume which didn't receive a judge's prize was a young man as 'The Incredible Hulk'; his antics kept the rest of the contestants from feeling those 'last minute jitters' that seems to strike even the most seasoned fancy dress entrant.

The discotheque was also a great success, although I spent most of it helping to sort out auction items. A number of very good room parties, most of which seemed to be serving photon torpedoes (does anyone want to know? Okay, 1/3 rum; 1/3 advocat; 1/3 lime. VERY POWERFUL, - NOT recommended for non-drinkers!) followed and Saturday wound down very successfully, that is until we realized that the clocks had just gone back and it was officially an hour later than we all thought it was! I think this was the first convention that experienced this particular type of 'time warp'.

Sunday started slowly, but livened up rapidly when I was co-opted to 'assist' with the fashion show. There were insufficient entries for a good show, and Dot Owens had rounded up a number of people, a quantity of material and other objects, and instructed that at least two entries must be completed before the show - which was at 2.15pm. Whilst innumerable people rushed around in a semi-clad state frantically sewing each other into anything that came to hand, I sat in a corner and wrote two fashion-show scripts. These were handed in to Anne Page, the MC for the convention, literally as the fashion show started, and it is to her credit that she managed to cope with the scribbled handwriting in an extremely professional and competent manner. Around this time the hotel ran out of cigarettes.

Awards for the fashion show were won by Pat Thomas for best collection and costume, Sue Trent as best model and Marion Beet as best alien. Miri Rana was also awarded a 'runners up' prize.

By this time the flood in the dealers' room had died down; so much so in fact that someone observed that she felt like the entertainments officer on the Enterprise when it put in at Wrigley's Pleasure Planet! The closing ceremony came around altogether too soon for most of us; fiction prizes were awarded to Linda and Glyn Probert and David Coote, and poetry awards to Sue Meek and Carol Keogh. 'Shore Leave', followed by a session of charades, rounded out the evening, and everyone who attended agreed that, despite the problems with the hotel, the event had been entirely successful.

It's interesting to note that this small convention with no 'big-name' guest stars, no complicated video programme (the video hadn't come along yet), in surroundings which were far from ideal, has gone down in 'fan history' as one of the most memorable of all the Trek conventions: everyone seems to have a story about Manchester, some which are too salacious to repeat here. The feeling of togetherness and perhaps 'partners in adversity' with regard to the hotel, is difficult to convey. I can't help feeling that the success was due in a large part to the enthusiasm of the attendees, all of who were prepared to put up with a few inconveniences in order to join together in appreciation of the show. Whilst the same attitude can still be found at some conventions, the technological advances that have been made, together with the wider acceptance of Star Trek as an acceptable 'aberration', seems to have led to a decrease in the sense of wonder and fulfilment that these early conventions were able to encompass.

Next time around - the Stag/Empathy midi-con at the Dragonara Hotel, Leeds, on 31/3-1/4/79.

IDIC OPINION POLL

Results collated by Helen White

First of all, a big thank you to the 21 people who took the time to send me their votes, including one person each from West Germany, Israel & USA.

For most of the categories the figures you will read are straight totals. The reason that the odd .5 crops up is that a few people had two choices instead of one, so I just split their vote.

In the first two categories, I gave the first choice 10 points, the second 9, the third 8, and so on, which made for huge totals, so those figures are percentages.

And so at last, we come to the results.....

1. Favourite Regular Character

1. Spock 22.4%
2. McCoy 18.3%
3. Kirk 18.2%

Followed by (in order) Uhura, Scotty, Sulu & Chekov. Also receiving votes were Rand, Chapel, Saavik and the Enterprise.

2. Favourite Regular Actor

1. DeForest Kelley 22.2%
2. William Shatner 20.5%
- Leonard Nimoy 20.5%

Followed by James Doohan, George Takei, Nichelle Nichols & Walter Koenig, then Mark Lenard & Grace Lee Whitney.

3. Favourite Guest Character

1. Sarek 13 votes
2. Edith Keeler 3 votes
- Harry Mudd 3 votes

And with one vote each, Sarek & Amanda, T'Pol, Kevin Riley, Romulan Commander, Gem, John Christopher, Zarabeth and Leila Kalomi.

4. Favourite Guest Actor

1. Mark Lenard 14
2. Ricardo Montalban 6
3. Joan Collins 1
- Emily Banks 1
- (Tonia Barrows in 'Shore leave')

5. Favourite Alien Race

1. Vulcans 10.5
2. Romulans 4.5
3. Klingons 3

Also mentioned were Talosians, Tribbles, Organians and Hortas.

6. Favourite Villain

1. Khan 5
2. Trelane 4
3. Kor 3

Harry Mudd and the Romulans also got two votes each in this category.

7. Least Favourite Regular Character

1. Chapel 5
2. Chekov 4
- Rand 4
4. Kirk 2

Four people didn't vote for anyone in this category, and of all the regulars only Spock and McCoy got no votes.

For the next two categories, the first choice got 3 votes, the second 2 and the third 1.

8. Favourite Episode

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| 1. The City on the Edge of Forever | 25 |
| 2. The Empath | 17 |
| 3. Shore Leave | 10 |
| Amok Time | 10 |

The only other episodes to score more than 5 were The Trouble With Tribbles (9) and Journey to Babel (7).

10. Least Favourite Episode

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| 1. Spock's Brain | 25 |
| 2. Plato's Stepchildren | 10 |
| 3. The Alternative Factor | 9 |
| And the Children Shall Lead | 9 |

Again, only two episodes scored more than 5: The Omega Glory (8) and The Galileo Seven (7).

Twelve episodes managed to get into both categories, including Balance of Terror, Mirror, Mirror, The Empath and Plato's Stepchildren.

9. Favourite Film

- | | |
|-------------------------|----|
| 1. The Voyage Home | 12 |
| 2. The Search for Spock | 4 |
| 3. ST:TMP | 3 |
| 4. The Wrath of Khan | 2 |

And one person voted for all four!

11. Least Favourite Film

- | | |
|----------------------|----|
| 1. ST:TMP | 14 |
| 2. The Wrath of Khan | 4 |
| 3. The Voyage Home | 1 |

3 people voted for 'none', and no one voted for The Search for Spock. A few people complained that this was a rotten question, because they liked all the films, and 'least favourite' didn't mean they didn't like it at all!!

12. Out of 22 voters (including me!), 20 people read some or all of the novels, and the various votes were much more widely spread: the highest score in any of the categories was only 5.

a) Favourite Novel

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Uhura's Song | 3.5 |
| 2. Enterprise: The First Adventure | 2 |
| How Much for Just the Planet? | 2 |
| Time for Yesterday | 2 |

10 more books got one vote each, and one (the novelisation of ST:TMP) got the other .5.

b) Favourite Author

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. Diana Duane | 4 |
| 2. Vonda McIntyre | 3 |
| 3. Gene Roddenberry | 2 |
| J. M. Dillard | 2 |

3 people didn't vote in this category, but 6 other authors got either .5 or 1 vote each.

c) Best Storyline

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1. Strangers from the Sky | 3 |
| Uhura's Song | 3 |
| 3. Yesterday's Son | 2.5 |

4. Ishmael

2

1 person didn't vote here, and 9 other titles got either .5 or one vote each.

d) Worst Storyline

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. How Much for Just the Planet? | 5 |
| 2. Chain of Attack | 2 |
| Shadow Lord | 2 |

2 people didn't vote, and again, 9 others were mentioned.

Interestingly, Chain of Attack got a vote in category (c) as well! Also, three books were voted for both as favourite novel and worst storyline: How Much for Just the Planet, Spock Must Die! and Triangle.

13. 'Zine reading seems to be much less widespread: only 12 people said that they read them. Only one 'zine got two votes, and therefore 1st place:

The Morbius Syndrome by Janet Lawn (Pub by The New Enterprise)

This 'zine also got a 'second place' from another voter.

9 other 'zines were mentioned, with one vote each, and one person didn't vote. Overwhelmingly, the favourite author was Sheila Clark, although I suppose there could be a club bias in operation here. Also, one totally unbiased (hello, Janet) person voted for 'all the E-logs'!!

And finally, we come to the last category. I don't think that the first place in either section will come as a surprise to anyone, but the rest of the voting produced interesting results.

14. a) The Gold Horta Award for Total Brilliance

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. The City on the Edge of Forever | 8 |
| 2. Balance of Terror | 3 |
| 3. Where No Man Has Gone Before | 2 |
| Shore Leave | 2 |
| The Devil in the Dark | 2 |
| Journey to Babel | 2 |

And with one vote each: Mantrap, Tomorrow is Yesterday and Amok Time.

b) The 'Lost in Space' Award for Undiluted Dreadfulness

- | | |
|--------------------|----|
| 1. Spock's Brain | 10 |
| 2. The Omega Glory | 2 |

And 3, with one vote each: Miri, The Galileo Seven, Arena, the Alternative Factor, Errand of Mercy, Who Mourns for Adonais?, The Lights of Zetar, The Way to Eden and Requiem for Methuselah.

In conclusion, I hope everyone enjoys reading this article as much as I enjoyed producing it.

MISTER DATA

by Lorraine Goodison

Lt. Commander Data; android, clown, literary muse, confidant, child, sex object... command material? Data is one of the more three-dimensional characters in The Next Generation, and it's fun following his escapades, but you wouldn't actually trust him in a command situation, would you? I mean, a machine who's emotionally stunted couldn't cope with the subtleties of some command decisions, could he? Would he be respected or trusted by junior officers?

These are some of the questions which arose during a light discussion with a friend on Data's credence as third in command, and I found them indicative of a strange prejudice which is undoubtedly what the character's creation was designed to address. Such intolerance is, I believe, a reflection of the social bigotries present in this century; against women, older and coloured people, the disabled and so on. In 'Where Silence Has Lease', Dr. Pulaski's irritated "It does know what it's doing?" puts voice to a bias which is frequently hidden under conventional politeness.

Does prejudice exist in the enlightened world of the 24th century? I'm pretty sure it will; some aspects of Human nature will always remain. Sexual and racial intolerance seem, on the face of it, to have dissipated in that future time, but prejudice takes many forms. Data's mechanical nature is clearly a source of bias. Commander Maddox, in 'The Measure of a Man', illustrated the reasoning that Data is merely a machine and as such does not merit serious consideration as a living being. If Maddox's reaction is a common one, then perhaps similar narrow-minded people prevented Data from fully developing beyond the restrictions of designated 'android'.

When Data joined the USS Enterprise after 20 years of existence, he was little more than a walking computer, an 'animated thesaurus'. He was simply doing his duty, and even though his Starfleet training would include metaphysics and philosophical theories, Data probably learned them remotely without applying them to his own experience. On the Enterprise, he finds a captain who gives him leeway to explore his developing personality and encourages him in his 'Human adventures' - up to a point. Even in 'Pen Pals', when Data goes way over the top in his eager enthusiasm, Picard is more understanding of Data's intent than he would be of any other officer.

Continuing his 'humanisation', Data has developed genuine friendships with his fellow bridge officers, and is surrounded by the joys of socialisation. No wonder he enthuses about his new-found status and tries to emulate his friends. With companionship, role models and a universe to explore, Data's never had it so good.

As portrayed in The Next Generation, Data develops from a machine to a fully-fledged child of Humanity, with an innocence he is unlikely to lose. It has been demonstrated that he is capable of taking command, although not in a direct example such as La Forge in 'Arsenal of Freedom'. Data is a believable character, so why do I have difficulty in accepting the image of him in command? Why does it create a vague disquiet, not least the fact that I feel that way? I don't think it's an inborn prejudice of mine - at least, I hope not. I do believe that everyone should be judged by their merits and not their outward appearance. So why not see Data that way? Have I seen too many stories where 'computer power' is dangerous to Human health?

The problem lies, I think, with the portrayal of Data in the series. In various episodes he has played the fool, the lover, the fall-guy, the puzzled innocent, the robot, but nowhere has he played the qualified Starfleet Officer. He's a Lieutenant Commander, in the chain of command, but it is difficult to perceive him as such. What is needed as another 'Galileo 7' or similar adventure where Data is in charge. 'Galileo 7' was the first real look at Spock in command, and showed his mettle in a dangerous situation with people who did not respect his judgement.

Data needs such a showcase, or he risks remaining the whimsical 'tin man', with as much credibility as a talking toaster.

CHARACTER RELATIONSHIP IN TNG

by Sheila Clark

A few newsletters ago, I wrote an article in support of TNG, and in it I said that I thought the characters were getting to know each other better. However, now that I have seen a few more episodes, I'm beginning to realise that - with the exception of Geordi and Data - the relationship between the characters was slow to progress any further. They all got on well enough together, but there was not in the first season the same sense of close comradeship between the characters as there was in the original series. I was left with the feeling that if any of them were to be transferred in a career move, they would go without any regrets. (Of course, that is how Ray Dowsett has always seen Trek - here, at last, I seem to be agreeing with him!)

It made me sit down and wonder why.

I finally realised that too many of the characters are one of a kind. Gene, in trying to make sure that the new series was wholly independent of the original, was possibly too creative. So he gave us Picard, an individualist, so experienced in space exploration that he has lost touch with the mundane realities of family life and interaction; Riker, the 'complete' career officer; Worf, the only Klingon on a non-Klingon ship; Data, the only android in Starfleet, as well as being the only known android with his capabilities; Geordi, biologically blind but able to 'see' - again, presumably, the only one of his kind in Starfleet; Troi, the half-Betazoid (I would assume that hybrids are not all that common even in the 23rd/24th centuries because of the differing physiologies of the various races); Wesley, whose IQ is probably higher than anyone else's on the ship... (I'm not counting Yar, who was probably also one of a kind - someone who had escaped from a planet where total anarchy reigned.) In the second series there's Guinan, again (apparently) the only one of her race in Starfleet - if indeed she is *in* Starfleet - she could be a civilian working on board. Only the doctor (either one) could be called 'ordinary', although Pulaski's considerable expertise is clearly delineated in Unnatural Selection.

In original Trek Spock was unique; the half Vulcan serving on a Human ship. Although Kirk has often been described as 'one of a kind' that is primarily referring to his leadership qualities; Spock was the only real 'individual' on NCC-1701, the only one who seemed to have nobody else like him in the entire universe. Possibly as a result, he was full of insecurities, and desperately needed friendship, whether or not he would admit to it openly.

The TNG characters, on the other hand, don't seem to have those insecurities; they are all perfectly self confident, even Data who wants so much to be Human.

I still like TNG and (second season) all of the characters, and I still think that it has the qualities that made Trek the show we loved. However, I do regret that - although I see them as being friendly - I have been slow to see the development of the close rapport between any of the characters that I saw in original Trek, though as the second season progressed it was at last beginning to make itself more obvious.

Unfortunately from my point of view, with the third season we are to lose Pulaski, who has been developing some excellent relationships with the other characters, especially Worf and Data, and getting Crusher back. In the first season Crusher's main *raison d'être* seemed to be to moon after the Captain (courtesy of most of the writers) and give in to Wesley's whims. If these aspects of her personality are carefully and permanently eradicated, her character may then be able to develop some meaningful relationships with the others.

KLINGON WOMEN

by Mel Claessens

What are Klingon women? What status do they have?

A look at the old episodes and films shows us: they do, at least, also appear in Klingon Starfleet. But in which roles?

In "Day of the Dove" Mara was introduced as Captain's Kang's "wife" (the more adequate term would have been "consort") - and his Chief Science Officer. She therefore must have a place in the "regular" Klingon system, although she is not being treated and does not behave like a "regular" Klingon warrior - especially when Chekov attacks her...

What would Valkris have done to him, I dare ask. The second Klingon woman with a name looks, to me, somewhat more Klingon. She is strong, cool and fierce like her counterpart and probably consort, Kruga.

It seems that the movie Klingons improved not only in uniform, but also in every other respect. In spite of that fact, both images, that of Mara as well as that of Valkris, do not tell us much about the "character" of Klingon women.

Maybe the status of a Klingon female is shown by the way she is treated. Let us now look at Worf. He is the first Klingon to talk about any relation to women at all. Remember "Justice"? He did like the way Edo women treated him, although he later on remarks to Riker that Human women were too fragile for Klingons.

The first Klingon woman in TNG appeared in "Hide and Q". She confirmed the suspicion that Valkris gave rise to - and she shows us one reason why Klingon women are more appropriate for the male "tactics."

This picture is finally rounded by Worf's short description of the way Klingons behave when "mating" (in "The Dauphin") and, at last (but surely not least) by the two excellent female Klingon officers in "Matter of Honour". They are: proud, strong, savage - and still inferior to the males... Or are they?

Maybe it was good for Riker to leave the Pagh not for official reasons, but also because he might have had some personal difficulties; he might have underestimated the fierceness of his female co-officers...

I am looking forward to the next Klingon woman who is, I recently heard, soon to come, and may possibly reveal more about the status of Klingon women.

QeyHa' SutaI-qtImaamva, Klingon Language Counsellor, c/o Mel Claessens, Baseler Str. 51, D - 1000 Berlin 45, Germany, Terra

STAR TREK FANDOM IN AUSTRIA

by Karin Embacher

The summer '88 I actually had thought to be more or less the only Austrian Trekker involved in organised fandom; far and wide no other fan in sight. 1986 in a New Enterprise n/1 I found an Austrian club mentioned: Epallion 10. I tried to get in touch with them, which took awfully long, only to find out that almost all of the members were in Germany. All in all there only were 15 and even the membership fee was given in DM! As this info on the club was even more disappointing than I had feared, I didn't contact them any more and once again restricted my ST connections to Britain.

Then in August 88 I received a letter from Margit, here in Vienna. She had, much like me, been a lonesome Trekker ever since the series had been first shown on Austrian TV and had been in German fandom for quite some time. A mutual pen-pal had given her my name and address. I suppose you can well understand my excitement at receiving this letter. I invited her to my place and we've met several times since - dutifully undisturbed by our non-Trek husbands.

In November I received my second letter from here in Austria. Ursula had read an article of mine in a book and then found my name in a STAG n/l. What a shame - we both had been members of the same club for quite some time and not known of each other's existence. So I invited her to my home, too, and we had a lovely evening.

Then there was my friend Sonja. I knew she liked ST, and I thought it would be nice to invite all of them to a get-together. So I phoned all of them, asked them about their plans and finally on Feb 4th - tantaral - I had my first mini-house-ST Con; with Margit, Ursula and Sonja attending. Sonja brought along her sister in law, Eva. So, did you count? That makes 5 people! Margit's husband and mine we chased away to the nearby brewery, so nobody would disturb us.

We watched oh-God-how-long-winded ST:TMP (the uneventful scenes being actually quite pleasurable because you can use them for fetching something to drink), because Eva had never seen it; ST:TWOK, because Sonja had missed that one, and both films in German for the sake of both of them. In between we did a lot of talking, informed big eyed Sonja and Eva about fandom and everything available in the field of ST. We persuaded Sonja to give it a try and borrow some of my English novels and Eva jumped at the few German ones I own. My ST bookshelf looks quite deserted now. Those two hadn't been infected by fandom till then but are prone to catch the disease if we are at them like that for a little longer.

Another "first night" took place that afternoon: we played "The Golden Trivia ST Quiz". Ursula and I were busy translating the questions to the others, but that was the smaller obstacle in comparison to finding the correct and corresponding German title of the respective episodes. Fortunately Margit had her listing of German titles with her and so we managed quite well - apart from the fact that our score in regard to finding the right answers wasn't too high. But it was really great fun.

It was a very eventful day - unfortunately relatively short, because both Eva and Sonja had to leave early to fetch their kids. I hope everybody enjoyed it as much as I did. It was decided we would keep on holding these mini-cons, taking turns in organising them.

Linda McGrath and Barbara Gordon asked for info on clubs outside Britain - well, we are of course not a club, but I guess we can already call ourselves a local group, with two representatives in IDIC - Ursula and me. (See under Local Groups.)

ANTIMATTER IN THE 20TH CENTURY AND BEYOND

by Sue Embury

We all know the Enterprise is powered by antimatter (occasionally we hear discussions about how much ought to be in the magnetic bottle) - but is there any chance of it becoming reality by the 23rd Century, or sooner? Antimatter drive is actually one of the stronger contenders for possible development in interplanetary and ultimately, interstellar vehicles. Here is a resume of the current state of scientific thinking, extracted from an article by Joel Davis: "With Antimatter to the Stars" New Scientist, 24th June '89.

Any science student knows that an atom is composed of a positively charged nucleus orbited by negatively charged electrons. The world of sub atomic particles is apparently populated by not only neutrons, protons and electrons, but also

leptons, quarks, bosons and many others, often of transient existence and too strange to be comprehended by the non-physicist (well, by me, anyway!) According to theory all these fundamental particles must have an anti-matter equivalent: i.e. it's mirror image carrying the opposite electrical image.

In 1929 the British physicist Paul Dirac predicted the existence of anti-matter. Subsequently, positrons (anti-electrons) were detected in debris from cosmic ray collisions with the atmosphere. More recently experiments with particle accelerators have produced anti-protons, albeit with the input of enormous amounts of energy.

So, can it be put to work, you ask? For physicists struggling to unravel the mysteries of the universe, it is a powerful tool for dismembering atoms into their component parts. When a particle of matter meets its equivalent and opposite in antimatter, they annihilate one another with a dramatic release of energy and a fleeting glimpse (to those who know how to look) of the fundamental nature of matter.

But what about the Star Ships? you will be wondering. What about all that energy released when opposite particles collide. To put things in perspective; burning petrol produces 9.1 million joules per kilogram of fuel; uranium undergoing nuclear fission yields 82 million, million joules per kg; and the annihilation of proton with anti-proton releases 90 thousand, million, million joules per kg.

Of course, no-one is expecting to bottle up a whole kilo of anti-protons in the foreseeable future; but the point is, you wouldn't need very much. This is just as well, because present technology, i.e. giant particle accelerators, are incredibly inefficient antimatter producers. Currently, it costs in the order of 1,000 billion dollars to make 1 microgram of antimatter. Even with the greatest improvement in methodology it will always be an extremely costly exercise.

Current space technology depends on various chemical fuels - liquid oxygen, hydrogen and the like - massive great tankfuls of the stuff are required just to get off the ground - and then you have to get fuel up there in space with you before you can go anywhere. The ratio of energy production to mass from just a few milligrams of antimatter is such that its use could be economic, notwithstanding production costs; for some applications, such as exploration outside the solar system, chemical fuels are simply a non-starter.

So, what form does this energy take? In the case of electron/positron annihilations, their mass is converted into gamma radiation, which, unfortunately, is not easy to utilise as propulsive power. However, if proton and anti-proton collide, a more complex interaction occurs. Besides gamma rays, other sub atomic particles - pions (pairs of quarks) are produced, some of which are electrically charged. Ultimately (after about 26 nanoseconds!) these decay into more positrons and electrons which annihilate in a further burst of gamma rays. While they exist as electrically charged pions however, they can be redirected (quickly!) using a magnetic field, thus providing thrust for a rocket. By the time they decay to gamma rays they would be about 2 kilometers behind the ship with a velocity around 94% of light speed.

An alternative is to pass the pions through a "working fluid" of methane, liquid hydrogen or even water, where the electrically charged pions should excite the neighbouring electrons, heating up the gas or liquid and creating a propulsive plasma stream which passes out of the rocket nozzle. An estimated 30 - 50% of the annihilation energy would be harnessed as kinetic energy of the rocket exhaust.

Obviously, with just a few micrograms of antimatter having such potentially explosive energy release merely on contact with ordinary matter, keeping the two separate is of prime importance. This is where the magnetic "bottle" comes in - the particles carrying an electric charge can be confined or manipulated using magnetic fields (one design suggested a field of 500,000 gauss to control pions produced by annihilation. This sounds like a lot of gauss to me, and I wonder what would happen

if ever there was a power cut). Another suggestion on the control problem is to store anti-protons as an ice-ball of anti-hydrogen (ie, 1 anti-proton + 1 positron). Assuming that anti-hydrogen could eventually be manufactured, calculations suggest that 10 milligrams would withstand 300 annihilations per second on its surface without exploding. It would need to be kept at a temperature of 2 kelvin. Such temperatures are routinely created in experimental physics today. In deep space they should be even easier to maintain.

Large scale antimatter production would certainly be an appropriate industry for outer space - at any rate, off Earth, since it is essentially dangerous stuff. Even assuming more efficient techniques will be developed, the energy requirements would still be enormous. Fission power would seem to be the most likely source in the current state of technology. Perhaps the lunar surface could be an appropriate site for this development. On a more ambitious scale, if technology could be developed to operate in the extreme conditions, Mercury, only 57.9 million km from the sun, experiences a nearly continuous flux at the polar regions, which might be harnessed for large scale production of antimatter.

How long will all this take to come to pass? Certainly not by the turn of this century, but the next? Quite possibly. A first generation antimatter powered ship might reasonably expect to attain a constant acceleration of 1g, something impossible to hope for with chemical fuels because of the inertia of the enormous mass of fuel. At a constant acceleration of just 0.1g (about 1 metre per second, each second) Pluto would be only 50 days journey. Interstellar travel, however, would require kilograms of antimatter rather than milligrams, and of course none of this has enabled us to cross the light speed barrier, no matter how many kg of antimatter are stowed in the magnetic bottle! As to warp speeds - I pass on that one!

DEFINITIONS OF SOME FAN TERMS

by Valerie Piacentini

Several people have mentioned they would like to see definitions of terms used by fans. A few of the most obvious are listed below. If you can think of any others, or if there is one which is puzzling you, please let us know and we will add to the list.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| AGE STATEMENT | A written, signed statement that you are over 18 and understand the nature of the material you are ordering. See SLASH FICTION. |
| CON | Convention: a meeting of fans. There are two main cons a year, spring and autumn, and several others. They usually last for a weekend, with a programme of videos, films, guest speakers, and competitions. The main cons are voted for by fandom at a business meeting. Details of future conventions are advertised in club newsletters. |
| FAN | In this case, someone interested enough in Star Trek to become involved by joining a club, and possibly attending conventions. |
| FANDOM | Fans in general. |
| FANZINE | An amateur magazine produced by fans for fans. Many are of excellent quality - often better than the professional novels. They appeared in the early days of fandom when there was little professional material available; if fans wanted new Trek, they had to produce their own. Usually referred to as ZINES. (Pronounced ZEENS.) |

| | |
|------------------|--|
| FEN | Plural of fan - mostly used in America. |
| GENZINE | Zine containing general fiction. |
| IRC | International Reply Coupon. Obtainable at main Post Offices. Send 2 with an addressed envelope with overseas enquiries - British stamps cannot be used abroad, or foreign stamps in Britain. |
| K/S | See SLASH FICTION. |
| LETTERZINE | Rather than fiction, these contain open letters to fandom. |
| MARY SUE | Many shades of definition, but basically a Star Trek story which revolves mostly around the writer's own character creation, sometimes her own alter ego. This character is usually female, young, beautiful, brilliant, charming, universally beloved, and ends up saving the ship and winning the hand of either Kirk or Spock - occasionally McCoy. There have been some good stories of this type, some absolutely dreadful, and a few wickedly funny parodies. In general, a term of criticism when applied to a story. And yes - men write them too! |
| NEWSLETTER (N/L) | You are now reading one. A magazine produced by a club containing information on the worlds of Star Trek and fandom. With the exception of the Official Fan Club, newsletters depend heavily on input from members. |
| SAE/SASE | Stamped addressed envelope. Please enclose one when writing to a club, if you want a personal answer, or to an editor when enquiring about a zine. They are all amateurs on a tight budget, and postage soon mounts up. When writing abroad, send an addressed envelope and 2 IRC's. The P.O. gives 1 surface rate stamp per IRC. |
| SLASH FICTION | Initials connected by an oblique, eg. K/S (Kirk/Spock). Indicates that the characters identified share a same-sex relationship. Used in zine ads and discussion. An age statement must accompany all orders for these zines. |
| TMP | Shorthand for Star Trek the Motion Picture. |
| TNG | Shorthand for The Next Generation. |
| TREKKER/TREKKIE | Media terms for fans. In general, fans tend to believe that a TREKKER is a fan with a serious, long-term interest, while a TREKKIE merely has a passing interest. TREKKER is therefore the preferred term. |
| TWOK | Shorthand for The Wrath of Khan. |
| ZINE | See FANZINE. |

DEALERS' ROOM

by Valerie Piacentini

One of the highlights of any con is the Dealers' Room, and from time to time we will mention some of the sales tables we have seen with unusual merchandise. In all cases we have bought from these dealers, and have been very satisfied. These tables are worth looking out for, either for your own purchases, or for unusual presents.

Our first dealer is Paul Curtis, who trades as Hightower Crafts. Paul does the

most beautiful leatherwork, his creations being works of art as well as superb craft items. Anyone who saw his superb portrait in leather of Saavik will remember it vividly. He will undertake to work on commission to your own design, and can reproduce a photograph in leather. Be sure to ask to see his sample book.

Apart from leather, Hightower make uniforms, dragons, and many types of fantasy models. In fact, it is one of the most tempting tables around.

Hightower will work to mail order. See ad section for their address.

FROM MY DIARY...

by Marion Kennedy

Saturday 6th July, 1974

David and I went on the "Beyond Antares" day out to London. We left on the early train. It was fine. Met Sheila Hull, Fran Toosey, dear Margaret Bertram, John Hind, Michael Rossiter of "STERB", and lots of other people, about 25 in all, at Speaker's Corner, Hyde Park, London.

Went on the underground to the London Planetarium to see "Planets Around Other Stars". Then to Oxford Circus Science Fiction Bookshop. Next by bus to Westminster. Went on a riverboat trip to Greenwich and back.

We had a meal at a 'Wimpy Bar'. All talked by the River Thames. Margaret bought David a book. We walked miles. The weather was hot and sunny. We went home with John and Michael by train. It was a lovely day out with our Star Trek friends.

BOOK REVIEWS

MASKS by John Vornholt Published by Pocket Books & Titan (TNG 7)
Reviewed by Lorraine Goodison

'Masks', by John Vornholt, is not one of the best TNG novels, nor is it one of the worst. 'Masks' is... middle of the road; ie it reads easily, holds few surprises and won't set the world on fire either way.

Set on the world of Lorca, where the inhabitants wear masks according to rank and station, the story is about the search for the Wisdom Mask, traditionally worn by the planet's leader. Not only is the Federation, in the person of Ambassador Fenton Lewis, after it, so are the Ferengi and Lorca's own pretenders to the throne. Lewis, for some obscure reason, wants Captain Picard to go with him to Lorca, and that's where the problems start. The away team goes missing and Riker beams down with his own team to search for Picard and Co., as well as the mask. Meanwhile, a formidable lady named Piercing Blade wants the Wisdom Mask for herself. Along the way the varied participants cross paths, trip up, play tag and generally mosey along until they all meet up with the mask and its wearer, Almighty Slayer.

There are some 'lust in the dust' scenes between Picard and Piercing Blade which did rather take me aback. I must say, the Captain gets quite carried away a la James T. Kirk. Something to do with the primal atmosphere constantly alluded to by the author, no doubt. I always knew he was a tiger at heart... (rroaw!)

Riker doesn't get the girl, just the mud, water, tree branch and anything else his head tends to encounter. Lewis is a suspicious type right from the start, but he gets his just deserts in the end, and no one is very upset about it.

If all of the above sounds confused, wait till you actually think about the story. Then the questions pop up. Why, for instance, do Picard and Riker meet Lewis in Ten-Forward? Surely one of them greeted him aboard, or was Picard asleep and Riker in the loo? The excuse to get Picard down to Lorca is flimsy to say the least, and it's hard to believe that the computer only has records of Hallowe'en masks for fabrication; whatever happened to African and other traditional masks? I also found it hard to believe that no one thought about the havoc volcanic dust would cause in delicate instrumentation. The story is, however, quite a good romp and I liked the idea of the masks.

I'm just dreading the next TNG offering - 'Captains' Honour' - which sounds suspiciously like a regurgitated Battlestar Galactica plot. However, we shall see...

MASKS by John Vornholt Published by Pocket Books & Titan (TNG 7)
Reviewed by Helen White

Captain Picard, Lt. Worf and Deanna Troi plus a Federation Ambassador all beam down to the planet Lorca seeking the king, one Almighty Slayer, the wearer of the Wisdom Mask. Unfortunately, magnetic dust gets into their communicators, and cuts them off from the Enterprise, but they decide to carry on anyway. They meet a band of travellers who are also seeking Almighty Slayer, and join forces with them. Meanwhile on the ship, Riker is fretting about the away team, and decides to go and look for them, so he beams down with Data, Dr. Pulaski and two security people. They very quickly meet up with an old pedlar called Day Timer, who agrees to help them in their search. Some way into their journey they encounter the aforementioned Ambassador, Fenton Lewis, who tells them the dreadful news: Captain Picard and his team, he says, have been killed by the travellers...

At first sight, this plot seems rather ridiculous: two away teams each beam down, and with a whole planet to search, each of them just *happens* to find one of the top two people. Added to that is a power-hungry Ambassador who wants to retire on Lorca - as the new king! Sounds really believable, doesn't it? Well, as a matter of fact, when you read the book it does indeed. The story races along, there's lots of action, and I'm pleased to say that Fenton Lewis gets his come-uppance in the end. The Lorcan culture of wearing masks to indicate a person's status creates some interesting scenes, and everybody's character is well-written, including Riker who whinges (as usual) about poor Captain Picard being allowed to beam down. The book reads like a really good episode, and I enjoyed it so much that I've just read it for the second time in six weeks!

THE CAPTAINS' HONOUR by David and Daniel Dvorkin, Titan £2.95 (TNG 8)
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

To the best of our knowledge, this book has not been published by Pocket Books.

The M'dok, a race of catlike beings, has been raiding the peaceful planet of Tenara. Two Federation ships are sent to help the Tenarans - the Enterprise and the Centurion, manned by the Romans from Bread and Circuses, a planet now accepted into the Federation but still living very much according to the ancient Roman mores. Picard wants to find a peaceful solution to the problem; Captain Sejanus of the Centurion considers that only violence will stop the M'dok. Yet the Tenarans are psychologically incapable of fighting to defend themselves.

At Rec-Con, Richard Arnold told us that this book was not meant to be printed in this form; that it was supposed to get a massive rewrite. I would agree that it needs one, though not necessarily for the same reasons that Richard gave.

I found it mundane. Slow-moving. 'Boring' is possibly too damning a word, but it lacked sparkle. Too much of the book was spent in discussing philosophies; there was too much talk and not enough action.

Perhaps I'm being picky, but I found several small points that I felt were weaknesses or at least slipshodnesses - all small but contributing to an over-all greater weakness. At one point, for example, Deanna Troi 'wondered what Starfleet regulations were concerning the minimum size and complement for a starship's sick bay'. As a ship's Counselor, wouldn't she know? She hears crying from the Centurion sick bay - but although she goes in we are given no indication as to who is crying or why. Come to that, I would not have expected a ship with half the complement of the Enterprise to be a family ship; was that there only so that we could see how the Roman children were taught? It seemed so.

We are told right at the beginning that there is famine on the M'dok home planet; but the Federation doesn't know that and can only guess at famine; 'plague' is mentioned, without cause that I could see, but the characters are talking as if they know that this is so some time before they get confirmation that there is a famine.

I did not like the scene - again, a small one - where the 'heroine', a female security guard, is considering her world's god Servado - the resemblance to the crucifixion, in what is meant to be a war god, is disquieting. Again, a small scene, but added to the other small scenes...

The pacifist attitude of the Tenarans is totally unrealistic. If they can get angry about being attacked, they can fight. Pure pacifism would surely react with fear, with retreat, not with anger but 'we do not believe in fighting'.

Richard said he was unhappy with the inclusion of the Romans; however, the story as plotted did need a Federation ship (or ally) with a military/ruthless background to interact with Picard, but I think this could probably have been supplied by a Klingon-manned ship.

It is open-ended - for a possible sequel? I notice a lot of the novels seem to be doing that nowadays. But then, trilogies do seem to be the 'in' thing in science fiction and fantasy these days.

I would not go so far as to say I dislike this book. To dislike something it has to provoke a positive response, and The Captains' Honour failed to do this for me. On a scale of 1 - 10, I'd give it a 2. Incidentally, after writing this I checked David Dvorkin's earlier, original Trek book, Timetrap - and found I couldn't remember a thing about it. I suspect that within a month I'll have forgotten all about The Captains' Honour, too.

CAPTAIN'S LOG; by Lisabeth Shatner. Pocket Books
William Shatner's personal account of the making of Star Trek V.
Reviewed by Valerie Piacentini

Although rather expensive at £6.95 (import price), I recommend this book. It gives an account of the making of the film from the planning stages through to post-production. The introduction is an account of how Star Trek affected the writer and her family; the first chapter outlines Shatner's early career.

The writer has managed to balance personal inclination with objectivity, and has given a very broad-based account of the making of the film. While the story is obviously told from Shatner's perspective, she has not simply relied on her father, but also has interviews not only with the cast, but with many of the production crew as well. As a result we are given a variety of behind-the-scenes glimpses that no doubt will produce questions at future conventions. I would welcome a similar project for any future Trek films.

The only quibbles I have - and it is not really fair to call them that - are that I could wish the book even longer and more detailed, and that some of the photos had been in colour. Having approached the book with some reservations as to the wisdom of it being written by a relative, and the consequent temptation to bias

in her reporting, I was really pleased with both content and style. I can only congratulate Miss Shatner, and hope that we will see more from her in the future.

KILLING TIME by Della Van Hise Published by Pocket Books (24) & Firecrest (Hardback) Reviewed by Joyce Devlin

A story based on a dream by our own Kirk and crew which slips them into an alternate dimension of reality due to the Romulans tampering with time. A second history of what might have been true had the Romulans succeeded in doing their dirty trick.

The story starts off with our Kirk and crew having dreams in which Kirk is not the Captain of the Enterprise, but an ensign. The Enterprise is not called Enterprise but 'Shikahr'. Spock is her Captain, Chekov is her First Officer, McCoy is her Doctor and Scotty is her Chief Engineer. Confusing, well we find in this story that Spock meets Thea the Romulan who incidentally manages to save him during a pon farr, among other things. Lured into a Romulan trap after Kirk is kidnapped, Spock finds out they have to free themselves from both their captors and their altered selves to save the universe from total destruction.

I felt this book had a tendency to hint on the subject of K/S as I found several passages trying to turn in that way, giving us a good hint as to what could have happened if the story had been allowed to develop as it wanted to do. Reasonably well written and followed. I do not like picking faults with other people's work but I felt the story wanted to go off in another direction and at parts into K/S. It is a good story however and if one likes alternate universe stories one will find the slip into the other universe quite uniquely done as you end up there with warning but unexpectedly. A reasonably good read with a twist in the tail at the end.

GHOST SHIP by Diane Carey. Published by Pocket Books & Titan (TNG 1) Reviewed by Pat Mitchell

The story begins with the mysterious disappearance in 1995 of the crew of a Russian Aircraft carrier and joins the Enterprise crew some 300 years later when Deanna Troi senses the presence of the disembodied minds of the long lost crew. The Enterprise crew are themselves attacked by an energy entity of immense size which threatens to destroy them the way it did with the carrier crew. The minds, literally suffering a fate worse than death, beg Picard to kill them, forcing Picard to decide whether, in agreeing to their wishes, it would be euthanasia or murder. He also has to find a way to keep the entity away from his own crew.

I'm afraid that any good points about this book are overshadowed, for me, by the fact that Picard and Riker act so out of character. Picard storms through the first half of the book permanently angry, snapping at his crew for no apparent reason and giving the impression he finds his crew incompetent. Riker seems even more out of character. He is xenophobic to the point of being openly hostile towards Data, seeing him as nothing more than a machine. He treats Data so despicably that the android feels the need to confront the entity alone, just to see if he's "alive" enough for the entity to want to kill him.

Another inconsistency is that Data is a Commander not a Lt. Commander as in the series, although this is probably just a continuity error.

To be fair to the author, this was one of the early Next Generation books and was probably written with very little experience of the episodes.

Having said that, if you view it purely as a book in its own right and not a series-orientated novel, it's a good story.

BIMBOS OF THE DEATH SUN by Sharyn McCrumb published by Penguin £2.99
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

Listed as crime/mystery, this book should not be missed by anyone who has ever attended a con.

Set at Rubicon, a SF/Fantasy convention, it quietly sends up fandom. All of the stereotypes are here, from the avid wargamer, interested in nothing else, to the fan who lives his favourite character. Attending the con there are big name fans, real people, imaginary people, pen names and the odd mundane who doesn't know just what has hit him.

There are two guest authors at the con; Jay Omega, a professor who has written a SF book and whose first con this is, and Appin Dungannon, writer of 26 books about Viking cult hero Tratyn Runewind (or 1 book 26 times). Dungannon detests Runewind but can't resist the money the character earns him; he hates fans who dress as Runewind; he is admired by his readers and loathed by everyone who has ever met him.

His editor calls at the con to collect the latest Runewind book, just been finished on the Saturday, and finds Dungannon dead. Murdered. Jay Omega finds himself thrown in at the deep end, filling in for the dead man, and a bemused detective wanders round trying to make sense out of elves and warriors, Vulcans and well-known people who don't exist, with computers his prime suspects.

This writer knows fandom and cons; this story is fun! You could almost imagine you are there. I certainly recommend it.

And the title? It's the name of Jay Omega's SF book...

QUESTOR by D C Fontana Reviewed by Sheila Clark

Data was not Gene Roddenberry's first advanced-android character. He was preceded some 14-15 years ago by Questor. (Yes, I know this book has nothing to do with Star Trek, but it has all the qualities that we love in Trek.)

D C Fontana's book is an adaptation of a TV script; 'Questor' was the pilot for a series which was not - unfortunately - picked up by the networks. (At least with Data Gene was able to slip in a few things that he couldn't do with Questor - Questor, for example, could not be 'fully functional' because 'Would you want your sister to marry one?')

The book starts with a 5-nation scientific group assembling an android. This android was designed by Vaslikov, a brilliant scientist who has been missing for three years. However, certain of the experts in the group had tried to decipher the computer program Vaslikov had left to activate the android - they failed but in the attempt managed to wipe part of the tape. And because they did not trust Vaslikov, they tried to substitute their own tape. However this did not 'take' so they were forced to use Vaslikov's damaged tape. It seemed that this did not work either, and the group went home for the night.

Once the laboratory was empty, the apparently unactivated android came to life, applied cosmetics to give itself a very ordinary appearance, found itself clothes, and walked out.

One of the group, a technician called Jerry Robinson, had worked for Vaslikov, and Darro, heading the project, suspected that Jerry was somehow involved in the disappearance of the android (Questor). He was not, but Questor made his way to Jerry's home, and persuaded the technician to help him. They made their way to London, where they first visited a casino and Questor won a small fortune rolling dice; this money he gave to a stockbroker to be invested at specific times. They then moved into the country to a private house Questor knew about. The owner had known Vaslikov; she showed Questor a hidden communications room from where it was

possible to 'spy' on events all over the world. And Questor discovered how to find Vaslikov - an imperative that was in his programming, but because of the interference, he did not know why.

Jerry continued to help him, and with Darro in pursuit they found a cave. At the end of it, deep under the mountains, was a huge chamber. In this were many bed-like slabs, all but one occupied; and on the second last one they found Vaslikov.

Vaslikov, too, was an android. But an android whose brain had been damaged by modern technology, so that his 'life' had been drastically shortened. Each android in turn had built its successor; but he had been unable to build his; all he had been able to do was leave instructions on how one was to be built and a program to activate it. And Questor, with a 'life' expectancy of two hundred years, was the last in the long line of androids dating back centuries, the first one left by aliens long before, its instructions being to help Man develop - not by interfering, but simply by acting to make sure that certain things happened - a child encouraged to stay on at school or follow a specific career, someone who felt himself a failure given hope to try again at something else... Questor was the last because it was postulated that by the end of his life Man should have 'grown up' and no longer need the help the androids were programmed to give.

Vaslikov had been waiting for Questor to find him so that he could hear this; and when told that some of the programming - mostly emotional reactions - had been deleted, he could only suggest that Jerry help Questor; and then Questor's duty was to turn Vaslikov off.

Darro, too, had heard all this. And his last orders to his men had been to destroy the android once he came out of the cave. Now however, he knew what Questor's purpose was...

I won't tell you the actual ending in case you manage to pick up a copy of the book, although a second hand bookshop would seem to be the only likely place, and even that, not terribly likely. D C Fontana tells the story well, it holds the interest, and as I already said, it's a great pity it was not picked up for a series - probably because it was too good. I suppose, in a way, the basic premise was the 'Lone Ranger' one - the strangers coming into town, and helping someone before they left again. If you ever get the chance to get a copy - do. You won't regret it.

ZINE REVIEWS

CONTINUUM II Reviewed by Valerie Piacentini

This is a TNG zine, 72 pages, containing 4 stories and a poem. The stories deal with: a powerful entity which must be returned to its home planet; how Lore came to be created, then deactivated; how Data acquired the hologram of Tasha; and a comedy story.

The highlight of the zine is 'Lore', by Janet Lawn, a well planned and executed story that makes good use of the information given in the episode 'Datalore', and fleshes it out to create an understanding of why both androids are as they are. We should hear more of this writer.

The editor's name is not given, but I have two points to make. The pages are not numbered, which would be useful. Also, a little more attention to punctuation at the editing stage would be an excellent idea; I think it was Beth Hallam who remarked years ago that she wished to give all editors a work sheet on the use of the comma - and the apostrophe!

Overall, however, I would recommend this zine for content. The stories have a freshness, and are well written. The zine itself presents a readable, attractive

appearance. I would also like to draw attention to the excellent illos by Janet Lawn.

Continuum II, price £3.50 plus 40p p&p, is available from 1701 A - D, 96 Long Lynderswood, Basildon, Essex, SS15 5BA.

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Bill Hupe

ABODE OF STRIFE 16, a Star Trek anthology featuring Kirk and Spock on the first delegation to Betazed; an inquisitive child borrows his father's lab ship and goes on a journey he'll never forget; a Sarek/Amanda trilogy, and more. Fiction by Fisher, Jan, Hart, Hall, Parrish, others. Art by Summers, Jaeger, Stacy-MacDonald, Matthews, others. 165 pages. \$12.50 US; \$26.50 overseas air, \$18.00 overseas surface.

ERIDANI 4, an R-rated Next Generation anthology. Includes the tragic story of Alveda 3, Picard and his love Crusher; where was Troi when the buggies had their "Conspiracy" revealed; Troi's encounter with Spock. Fiction by Overstreet, Dickenson, Hays, others; art by FanQ winner Gennie Summers, Baker, Jan, others. 120 pages. \$9.00 US; \$24.00 OS air, \$15.00 OS surface.

HELLGUARD SOCIAL REGISTER 1 showcases Romulan and Saavik fiction including a story in which Spock investigates a distress signal and finds a handful of children alive; Saavik investigates a mystery that involves Gillian Taylor, and lots more. Contributors include Lana Brown, Gennie Summers, Shaw, Raymond, others. \$5.50 US; \$20.50 OS air, \$11.50 OS surface.

IDYLLS 3 is a romance oriented Trek anthology, featuring both Next Generation and Classic Trek. Includes a story in which Spock and McCoy are back in their own century and Zarabeth is dead; one about a young Beverly Crusher; a Tasha-Data story, and Uhura and Geordi stories. Fiction by Dickenson, Zewen, Overstreet, Vest, Howald, others; art by Myers, Junius, Baker, Summers and Cantrell. 150 pages. \$10.00 US; \$25.00 OS air, \$16.00 OS surface.

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East Lansing, MI 48823, USA. All prices include insurance; US funds only.

ZINE ADS

You can send your Zine Ads to either Janet or Sheila. While we will try and print them in full we reserve the right to edit for length if necessary. We will print these ads in three consecutive newsletters only unless we receive an update.

IDIC

Still available; HOME TO ROOST 1 & 2, £3.45 each, U.S.A. \$13.65 air, \$10.15 surface; Europe £4.45; Australia £6.95 and HOME TO ROOST 3, £3.05, USA \$12.50 air, \$9.00 surface; Europe £4.05; Australia £6.00 - stories all by Sheila Clark and Valerie Piacentini, reprinted from other zines. All prices include p&p. Due soon, IDIC LOG 1, short stories about the crew of the original Enterprise; and IDIC LOG 2, a novel by Christopher Ng. Order from Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee.

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Scotpress

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NEW ENTERPRISE LOG 14: Now available. 61 pages, short stories, poem, crossword, wordsearch, illustrations. Price UK £2.20; Europe £3.75; USA (surface) \$8.00, (airmail) \$10.50; Australia (surface £4.50, (airmail) £6.00.

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The following zines are available on order from Kay Stagg, 33 Barrack Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6RU. Postage and Packing as follows: One zine - £1.20; Two zines - £2.00; Three zines - £2.30; Four zines or more - £2.75

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If there is anything I can help you with, or if you wish a more detailed flyer for an individual zine, please let me know. Prices are - \$18.00 US, \$24.00 foreign (ie Britain). US currency, please! FT 1 - 6 are in third edition, 7 - 18 in second, and 19 - 22 are currently in first edition.

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THE SMALL PRINTERS

Reprints of out of date Star Trek zines from the Reprinters (a branch of the Small Printers). Currently available, REPRINT 1 (stories by Meg Wright from out of print zines), AS NEW WINE by Meg Wright. From the Small Printers, a new ST zine, THE FLIGHT OF AYMOR by Ray Owen (alias Glen David) - life as a woman in the male-dominated Klingon Empire. The Small Printers also publish THE SMALL PRINT, a Professionals genzine - 4 issues so far. SAE for prices and availability to L R Muir, 1 Moor Park Avenue, Leeds LS6 4BT. We are considering reprinting THE PROBLEMS OF DR. PENHALIGON by Glen David (reviewed in IDIC) and would welcome SAEs from anyone who might be interested in this classic zine.

LIFEBOAT by Bev Zuk - Cut off from the Enterprise, with scant hope of rescue, Kirk, Spock, McCoy and Scotty struggle to survive in a damaged shuttle. Battling injuries and starvation they come to rely on each other as never before. 181 pages. Price to Britain \$22.00 airmail, \$17.40 surface; price within USA \$16.50 incl. 1st class postage. Order from Bev Zuk, 2 South Old Lloyd, Lombard, IL 60148, U.S.A.

Mike Simpson is willing to proof read, edit and/or re-type zines, newsletters, stories, (any length) on his Amstrad PCW. Will soon be in a position to consider page make-ups on a Desk Top Publishing Package. FREE service, done for love. Enquiries to Mike Simpson, "Hambledon", Upperfields, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1LE

A new amateur magazine '221B' featuring SHERLOCK HOLMES (with particular emphasis on Jeremy Brett's contribution to the role) is now available. '221B' is produced as an A5 booklet with a colour artcard cover (featuring photographs of Jeremy Brett and Basil Rathbone, and gold foil block. Professionally printed in off-set litho; it has 40 fully illustrated pages and covers a wide range of material. Something for everyone! (Further contributions are most welcome for future issues. Price £2.25 (incl. P&P). Please make cheques/postal orders payable to: Miss Ann O'Neill. Order from: Miss Ann O'Neill SRN., 38 Stephens Firs, Mortimer, Reading, Berkshire RG7 3UY

Blue Jay Press

ENIGMA (multi-media zines). Issues 7-9, 11-12 available. (Nos 7-9, 11 £2.50 incl. postage, No. 12 £3.00). RED DUST 2 (V) £2.50 incl. p&p. GROWING PAINS (V) £2.00 incl. p&p. Cheques payable to Pamela Dale, Hillcrest, St Mary's Road, Riddlesden, Keighley, West Yorks BD20 5PA

LOCAL GROUP NEWS

compiled by Janet Quarton

We have been asked by a few members recently if we can provide more information on local groups and their activities so we decided to create this new column devoted to local groups.

There are quite a few local ST groups around the country; we have listed some we know about here but this is by no means a comprehensive list. Most local groups are independent and are not affiliated to one club. We don't plan to have any groups affiliated to IDIC because we think they are better to be independent with their members belonging to whichever clubs they wish to.

If you run a local group or are a member of one why not send us a short article on what your group does and the dates and venues of future meeting. Don't forget we need these well in advance; e.g. we need the info for December/January/early February by November 15th.

HOW DO I JOIN A LOCAL GROUP?

If you don't see anything listed here you could try writing to other ST clubs, enclosing a SAE, to see if they know of any. If you still don't have any success put an advert in the Friendship column saying you want to contact other fans locally and enquiring whether anyone knows of a local group in your area.

HOW TO START A LOCAL GROUP

If you fail to find a group why not consider starting your own? Put an advert in the Friendship column saying you want to contact other fans in your area with the aim of forming a local group. Also send the advert to the other clubs and ask them if they would mind printing it. We will also give you a mention in this column. Once you've contacted a few people you can start arranging meetings. It's probably best to start your meetings in a member's house but once you have enough members you can hire a room. At these meetings you can hold discussions, show videos etc. It is a case of finding out what interests members. Some groups have outings, some even put out their own newsletter.

LOCAL GROUPS

Note: Local groups are mainly social groups and don't put out newsletters unless specified.

THE AWAY TEAM Glasgow Star Trek Local Group. SAE for info to Catherine Melrose, 127 Medwyn Street, Glasgow G14 9QJ

THE LANDING PARTY Edinburgh Star Trek Appreciation Society. A new local group which is open to all fans over the age of 18. Membership subscription is £2.00 per annum. Meetings every month plus a quarterly newsletter SICKBAY. Send SAE to: The Membership Organiser, 11/4 Meadowfield Court, Edinburgh EH8 7NA. Landing Party's newsletter, "Sickbay" has grown in leaps and bounds and the latest issue is 32 pages A5. Although the club is predominantly Star Trek they also welcome other media SF fans and reflect this in their newsletter.

Future events:

Nov 4th 6.00pm (Meet at Roddy's) Goblin Ha' Hotel: Halloween/Guy Fawkes
 Nov 25th Cats, Playhouse, Edinburgh
 Dec 16th Pre-Christmas Party, 21 West Maitland Street
 Jan 20th Livingston Pub Crawl
 Feb 17th Waggon Inn, Aberlady. Anniversary Supper

VIENNESE LOCAL GROUP Karin Embacher, Heiligenstadter StraBe 146/1/2, A-1190 Vienna, Austria. Tel. (0222) 37 17 704

A lot of British (and US) people are coming over to work in connection with the United Nations Center these days. Perhaps someone spends a holiday in Vienna, studies or stays as an au-pair. We are a tiny group of only six; we'll probably never get any larger (it's been quite a job to get these together, mind you!). We hold semi-regular meetings in each other's apartments. Beware! We are completely insane. If anyone should be staying in Vienna and wants to stay in touch with ST or simply needs help in an "alien world", they are welcome to contact us at my address or telephone number. Each of us speaks at least a little English and we all would love to hear from you, so don't be shy to join us.

NOTTINGHAM STAR TREK GROUP A local group for people in and around Nott'm locality. Meet weekly - venues vary. New members always welcome, for more details send SAE to: Elaine Oldham, 33 Sankey Drive, The Copse, Bulwell, Nottingham NG6 7DT.

THE OUTER ZONE. Local science fiction group which meets approximately once every month in the uncharted backwaters of the unfashionable end of southern England. SAE to Sue Parker, THE OUTER ZONE, 42 Victoria Street, Brighton, Sussex BN1 3FQ.

STAR SEVEN Mainly a contact group with infrequent group meetings, covering North East of Scotland - Aberdeen - Inverness. Anyone welcome. SAE to Maggie Symon,

Upper Dallachy, Spey Bay, Fochabers, Moray IV32 7PW.

CONVENTIONS / ADVERTS / CLUBS / GROUPS

CONVENTIONS / GET-TOGETHERS

NE'A'DRIAR 3 Star Trek Convention Sunday 29th October, 1989

Venue: Shepperton Moat House Hotel, Shepperton, Middx.

Registration: £8.50, £9.00 on the day.

Confirmed Guest: Rupert Evans Events: Guest Speakers, Charity Auction, Videos, Quiz, Fancy Dress Competition, Dealers Tables.

Send SAE for details and registration form to:

Claire Saunders, 12 Saville Crescent, Ashford, Middx. TW15 1SX.

MIDCON '89 The Midlands Eighth Star Trek Convention. November 3rd-5th, 1989
Holiday Inn, Leicester

Guest of Honour Gates McFadden (please note change); Special Guest Richard Arnold
Registrations: £27.50 Children (accompanied) Under 5 75% reduction; 5-12 50%
reduction, 13-15 25% reduction.

Registration Forms from :- Midcon '89, 8 Ennerdale Close, Oadby, Leicester LE2 4TN.

THE NINTH LEONARD NIMOY CONVENTION: November 10th - 12th, 1989

The Penguin Hotel, Leicester. Full film programme, spanning his career and
including many rarely, if ever, seen in the United Kingdom except at the Leonard
Nimoy Conventions. Registration £13.50 (one-day attendance and children £6.00).
For full details and registration forms, please send SAE to Carol Davies, 77 The
Ridings, Ealing, London W5 3DP.

TREK NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY 30/31 December 1989. Apollo Hotel, Birmingham.

Ticket price of £30 includes afternoon videos, evening buffet meal, video disco and
silly games, accommodation for the night of 31st December, VAT, service and Full
English breakfast. Payment terms are flexible, but all tickets must be paid for by
16th December. For full details send sae to: NEW YEAR'S EVE, PO Box 628, Bristol,
BS99 1TZ. Proceeds to the Confetti ball-out fund.

WE ARE KLINGONS! 2/4 March 1990. Apollo Hotel, Birmingham

An event for Klingon devotees everywhere. Will include the best bits from classic
Trek, Next Gen and the movies, rites of ascension, death rituals etc.

Guests: JOHN CARRIGAN (Stunts/Martial arts expert) and PAUL FLANAGAN (SFX/Make-up
expert, specialising in horrific wounds). Registration: £10. Hotel rates: £17.50
per person per night, in either a twin or single, inclusive of VAT, service and Full
English breakfast. For full details and registration forms send sae to: Tara Dyaon,
5 Arlington Avenue, London N1 7BE.

Proceeds to I CAN (Invalid Childrens' Aid Nationwide)

FRONTIERS The 29th British Star Trek Convention 4th - 7th May, 1990

Norbreck Castle Hotel, Queens Promenade, Blackpool, Lancs.

Registration: £20.00 until 31/08/89 then £25.00. Children under 5 free, 5-12 £15.00
until 31/08/89 then £16.50.

Room Rates: £21.50 each in single or twin, £31.50 single in double room, per night
incl. VAT and full breakfast

SAE to: Frontiers c/o Alison Hopkins, 9 Humber Road, London NW2 6EH.

HOLODECK The 30th British Star Trek Convention 31st August - 3rd September, 1990
Stakis Norfolk Gardens Hotel, Bradford

Registration £25.00. Room Rates: £22.00 each in twin room, £25.00 in a single
room, per night, incl. VAT and full Breakfast.

More details later.

CONQUEST: Thames Polytechnic, Dartford Kent September 14th-16th 1990

South East of England Star Trek Mini-con. SAE for details to Catherine Morrison,

305 Gurney Close, Harts Lane, Barking, Essex, IG11 8LD.

UFP '91 The 31st British Star Trek Convention May 3rd - 6th 1991,
Grand Hotel, Birmingham. Overflow hotel, Penguin.
Registration £25 for 4 days.

Videos being shown from noon Friday. Nearby open-air car park; also NCP car parks.
SAE for details to Kim Farey, 135 Greenstead Road, Loughton, Essex, IG10 3DJ

The vote for a convention for August 1991 will be reheld at Frontiers.

NON-STAR TREK EVENTS

NOVACON 18 Science Fiction Convention 17-19 November, 1989

Excelsior Hotel, Coventry Road, Birmingham Guest of Honour Geoff Ryman
Membership £12.00 per person (or £15.00 on the door). Cheques payable to Novacon 19
and sent to Bernie Evans, 7 Grove Avenue, Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 7UY

TV89 Telegenre convention. Birmingham 25-26 November, 1989
SAE to 9 Titford Road, Oldbury, Warley, West Midlands

EASTCON SF Con; Cobden Hotel, Birmingham 13-16 April, 1990
SAE to 15 Maldon Close, London SE5 8DD

FANDERSON '90 Central London, 25-26 May, 1990
SAE to 50 Albion Road, London N16 9PH

FRIENDSHIP COLUMN

Kim Farey (of FIB) is now at 135 Greenstead Road, Loughton, Essex, IG10 3DJ

Kath (Gytha) White, age 28. Interests: collecting all and everything to do with
Star Trek; reading; writing letters, stories and poetry; animals, particularly
horses; collecting dragons; listening to music and messing with my computer. Would
like to hear from anyone, any age, any sex, anywhere.

Kath White, 72 James Street, Scarborough, YO12 7PH, N. Yorks, England.

Peter Sneddon would like to hear from fellow ST fans. He enjoys horror movies,
astronomy, collecting movie soundtracks and posters, and naturally, Star Trek.
Contact Peter Sneddon, 13 Donaldson Drive, Irvine KA12 0QG, Ayrshire, Scotland (Tel:
Irvine 79729).

Brian Longstaff is looking to make contact with fans in the Sheffield/South
Yorkshire area for get-togethers and fun. Write to: Brian Longstaff, 13 Woodfarm
Drive, Sheffield, South Yorks S6 5LW; or phone Sheffield 341624 after 6pm.

Radwa Miscawy would like to write to other female Star Trek fans. There is very
little available on Star Trek in Israel. Write to: Radwa Miscawy, North Quarter of
Tulkarm, Near the Old Zenobia School, Tulkarm, West Bank, Israel.

Christine Chapel Fans - are there any others out there? If so Deanna Susana, 42
Staff House Road, Runwell Hospital, Wickford, Essex SS11 7PZ, England would love to
get in touch.

Mike Mullen would like to know if there is a local ST group in the Leeds area. If
not he would like to contact other members with the possibility of starting a group.
Please write to Mike Mullen, 25 Claremont Road, Headingley, Leeds LS6 4EB.

Freda Boydell would like to contact other fans in the Cornwall area with the aim of
getting together. Freda Boydell, 84 Plain An Gwarry, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 1HZ

SMALL ADS

Please note: All adverts are printed as a service to members and IDIC cannot accept any liability.

DRAW in progress for George Takei's autographed script of Star Trek 5 for the audio cassette recording of the novel for Simon & Schuster. £1.00 for 5 tickets from "G.H.T." 62 Southbank Street, Leek, Staffs. ST13 5LN. Please enclose an SAE.

FOR SALE ST goods for sale. Classic Trek, TWOK and TNG uniforms, Medieval and Fantasy costumes and all accessories. Also Dragons and Dragons' Eggs and board pieces for D & D, A D & D and ST RPG; and lots more. For catalogues and price lists please send an SAE to Mr. Paul Curtis, Hightower Crafts, Clwt Melyn, Pen Lon, Newborough, Anglesea, N. Wales.

FOR SALE: Photostamps - 10p each or 5 for 45p plus 14p postage up to 10, 19 up to 20 and over, six assorted original series photos (state which character you are interested in. Gold Next Generation Writing Paper price 5p per sheet or 20 sheets for 90p, plus 23p p&p. I LOVE.....STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION. (SLOGAN) + VULCAN HAND SALUTE ILLUSTRATION - GOLD PAPER; send for details of original series paper at same price. Next Generation Slogan Stickers, price 75p per batch of 100, plus 18p p&p. All packets are mixed slogans. GOLD STICKERS. SLOGANS 'Q DOESN'T WAIT IN LINE', 'CAPTAIN PICARD CAN MAKE IT SO!', 'STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION LIVES!', 'WESLEY SAVES MORE THAN THE SHIP...HE HAS A PIGGY BANK', 'DATA HAS MULTIPLE TECHNIQUES...' Overseas merchandise list available on request. Please send an SAE. Order from Margaret L. Richardson, STAG H/Q, 30 Kirkdale Green, Rye Hill, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE4 6HU - make cheques payable to STAG.

FOR SALE: STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION STICKERS. 10 different slogans sold in mixed bags of 50 (5 of each slogan). 30p for 50; 50p for 100 plus 18p postage and packing. Slogans are: 'Captain I'm picking up a bogey in the 5 O'clock tangent!', 'Tasha gets a kick out of security!', 'If you prick me do I not leak?', 'Counsellors do it with feeling!', 'JEAN-LUC PICARD-Hair today, gone tomorrow!', 'NOT NOW WESLEY!', 'SHUT UP WESLEY!', 'Geordi does it on a blind date!', 'I use fully functional Data!', 'There was a young lady from Venus, whose body was shaped like a...'. Available from Kathy Shiel, 9 Clarence Street, Bowburn, County Durham DH6 5BB. Cheques payable to K.A.Shiel.

FOR SALE: Spock prints. Photo-reproductions of original artwork. Four different prints. Ideal for clip-framing. Also available as 1990 calendars, Christmas and Greetings cards. SAE for details/prices. Sue Rickaby, 31 Ballburn Lane, Darlington, Co Durham DL3 0JR.

FOR SALE: ST Zines (mostly British). For list and prices send SAE to Elaine McCue, 109 Athelstane Road, Glasgow G13 3QY.

FOR SALE Car stickers - 'MY OTHER CAR IS THE STARSHIP ENTERPRISE'. Price £1.50 Lionheart Estates, 12 Oakdene Parade, Cobham, Surrey KT11 2LS.

FOR SALE Rubber stamps and stickers (various designs or your own), plus 'Airwolf', 'Trek' and 'Buck Rogers in 25th Century' photos, Gerry Anderson photos, annuals and kits, a few 'Trek' zines. Please send SASE stating interests to: Elaine Thomson, 23 Northbrook Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 3HE.

FOR SALE ST books, photos, slides, rubber stamps, videos, zines, sehlatz, tribbles etc. SAE to Simone Mason, Seranis, Danehill, West Sussex RH17 7JQ.

FOR SALE/SWAP Star Trek zines in mint condition. SAE for list to Christine J. Jones, 5 Pembroke Street, Leeholme, Bishop Auckland, County Durham, DL14 8JQ.

FOR SALE "Star Trek-The Role Playing Game" - boxed, never used, as new. £7.00. Contact Christine Hornby, 39 Bettescombe Road, Rainham, Kent ME8 9HS.

FOR SALE: large selection of general SF books and magazines; Dr. Who, Blakes 7, Gerry Anderson, Planet of the Apes, Buck Rogers, 6 Million Dollar Man, Flash Gordon, Battlestar Galactica, CE3K, Star Trek, Star Wars. Also general media; Monkees, Starsky & Hutch, A-Team. Send SASE for list to Kathy Shiel, 9 Clarence Street, Bowburn, County Durham DH6 5BB

WANTED I am trying to find VOLUME 3 of the ST FILES MAGAZINE Series - "The Undiscovered Star Trek" (Edward Gross). Reasonable price paid. Contact Oriel Cooper, 118 Abbotswood Road, Brockworth, Glos. GL3 4PF, England.

WANTED Does anyone have a spare copy of STARLOG 143? Contact Joanne Aylward, 54 Ashcourt Drive, Hornsea, North Humberside, HU18 1HF

WANTED Anyone who makes Star Trek Teddy Bears or Sehlatz. I would like to buy some, but don't know where to send. Please contact Jenny Turner, 46 Chinnbrook Road, Billesley, Birmingham B13 0LX.

WANTED Any zines containing Christine Chapel or Spock/Chapel stories. Please state price. D. Susans, 42 Staff House Road, Runwell Hospital, Wickford, Essex SS11 7PZ.

WANTED Did anyone at Sol III take photos of Guy Vardaman in his uniform - also of TNG slides, in particular De Kelley and Patrick Stewart in uniform together, and Patrick in cap with horses. Sheila Cornall, 5 Warwick Crescent, Hayes, Middx. UB4 8RE.

WANTED I would like to buy second hand copies of early LOG ENTRIES, also second hand copies of ENTERPRISE LOG ENTRIES and COMPUTER PLAYBACKS. I will pay any reasonable price if anyone is interested in selling them. Please contact Jenny Turner, 46 Chinnbrook Road, Billesley, Birmingham B13 0LX or phone (021) 443 2995 after 6pm please.

WANTED I would like to buy second hand copies of Star Trek novels and zines, also TNG. Please send your list with prices, incl. postage to: Raffaella Core, Via San Comizio 1, 65017 Penne (PE), Italy.

STAR TREK FAN CLUBS

1701 A/D A new club for fans of STAR TREK-THE NEXT GENERATION, as well as the original series and movies. We are a club catering for all ages, and all warps of life. We will produce four newsletters a year, which will not only give you information on all aspects of Star Trek, but a sense of fun and humour, which we hope will not only be reflected in the articles and stories, but also in any you send to us. Stories I hear you say.... as soon as we receive enough stories we will produce our first Zine. FOR FURTHER 'DATA', please contact Annette Neal, 96 Long Lynderswood, Lee Chapel North, Basildon, Essex SS15 5BA.

EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS to Janet Lawn, 42 Malyons, Felmores, Basildon, Essex SS13 1PJ

BEYOND ANTARES: A ST club set up to serve fans primarily in the UK, but with members world-wide. Newsletters include all the latest news regarding ST as well as more general information on the original series, TNG and the films. Membership dues per year (6 newsletters): UK £3.50, Europe £5.00, USA (air) \$12.00, Australia (air) £7.70. SAE to Sue Toher, 56 Spring Lane, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh, Hants, SO5 6BA.

BRISTOL STAR FLEET REGISTRY, Rod Summers, 53 Stoneleigh Road, Knowle, Bristol BS4 2RH.

EMPATHY, Carol Keogh, 131 Norman Road, Leytonstone, London E11.

ENTERPRISE ORIGINALS: A club for Star Trek fans who remember the time before Trek, before the first Sputnik... the time when 'Journey into Space' really was fiction! We publish quarterly newsletters which are purely about Star Trek with no actor-related or other media connections. We have room parties at Star Trek Conventions and publish zines with reduced price to Members. Dues are £14.00 per

year. Sterling only accepted. To join s.a.e. to: Ruth Brown, Membership Secretary and Treasurer, 42 Wakeline Avenue, Swaston, Cambridge.

(Ed. Highly recommended for friendly, chatty and informative newsletters.)

FARPOINT: 6 N/Ls year, membership for the UK is £5.00. For further information send SAE (UK) or International Reply Coupon (Overseas) to: Keith R. Gooch, 33 Rosale Place, Edinburgh, EH7 5RX, Scotland.

FEDERATION INFORMATION BUREAU (FIB) - 4 n/s per year. Membership £3.00 per annum. Sample newsletter - 4 first class stamps. FIB, 61 The Scotchhill, Coventry, West Midlands, CV6 2EW. Payable to 'FIB'.

Please note: Kim Farey's new address is 135 Greenstead Road, Loughton, Essex, IG10 3DJ.

GENESIS 2: Kathy Yates, 167 Kingshurst Road, Northfield, Birmingham.

INTREPID: Tina Hewitt, 65 Park Road, Dartford, Kent.

NORTHERN STARFLEET ALLIANCE

Sheffield Starfleet Star Trek Club - Lynne Butler, 7 Edgewall Close, Foxhill, Sheffield S6 1FF. Membership £3.50 (UK), Overseas P.O.A. 4 newsletters (Starttrekkers) a year. Local meetings at Sheffield once a month, combat, games and model groups in operation, pen pal section. Exhibitions and events staged locally.

Rotherham Starfleet Star Trek Club - John Wilcock, 445 Fitzwilliam Road, Eastwood, Rotherham, South Yorks S65 1NA. Subscription and newsletters as S.S.F. Local meetings have been held with raffles, competitions, showing episodes of Star Trek and there are plans for SF films. Meetings monthly.

Lincoln Starfleet Star Trek Club (New) - Susan Creasey, 20 East Liberty, Lincoln LN2 5RE. Subscriptions and newsletters as above. Meetings now being held at above address on a bi-monthly basis. Details from Sue. Please send SAE for details.

Barnsley Starfleet Star Trek Club - Linda Phillips, 10 Grange Lane, Stairfoot, Barnsley S71 5AE. Club now in operation, info from Linda.

STAGE 8 - a British fan club for fans of STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION. Send 9" x 4" SAE (overseas, 9" x 4" self addressed envelope and IRC) to Stage 8, c/o Ms Linda Hepden, 85 Eastwick Row, Adeyfield, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP2 4JQ England.

STAR BASE SWINDON: Membership Secretary Delia Robinson, "Altair", 1/77 Queens Road, Carterton, Oxon OX8 3XY.

STARSHIP EXCALIBUR, Shirley Pay, 29 Langton Avenue, Chalmersford, Essex, CM1 2BW.

STAR TREK ACTION GROUP: Britain's largest and longest running Star Trek fan club. 6 newsletters per year with reviews, pen pal and friendship columns, news on the actors, articles on original and new series, plus news on the movies. We also offer a substantial selection of merchandise from UK and overseas. Dues: £4.00 UK, £6.50 Europe, £11.00 USA (Airmail), £11.00 Australia (Airmail). For a sample newsletter and membership form send a 6 x 4 self addressed stamped envelope to: Margaret Richardson, 30 Kirkdale Green, Rye Hill, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE4 6HU, England.

STAR TREK STARS. A French Star Trek club specialising in Star Trek actors. 4 n/Ls (in French and in English) a year. For full details, please send addressed envelope and IRC to Star Trek Stars, 17 rue du Cygne, 75001 PARIS, France.

STATION GAMMA 1 SW QUADRANT: Gloucestershire based ST club. Meetings every 8 weeks; 4 N/Ls per year: Dues £4.00 per payable in December). SAE to Cay Hart, "Byways" 1 Brookfield Lane, Churchdown or Oriel Cooper, 118 Abbotswood Road, Brockworth, Glos GL3 4PF. The club is a BSFR affiliate.

TRANSWARP (a club for over 18s): Terry Elson, 8 Ennerdale Close, Oadby, Leicester LE2 4TN.

STAR FLEET COMMAND: A German ST club, 6 N/Ls and one fanzine (in German language) per half year. Membership 17.50 DM per half year. For further information send SAE and IRC to Michael Richert, Schlangenbader Strasse 87, D-1000 Berlin 33, Germany.

ACTOR FAN CLUBS

DEFOREST KELLEY INTERNATIONAL APPRECIATION SOCIETY, Lynn Campion, 54 Streatleigh Court, Streatham High Road, Streatham, London, SW16 1EG.

"G.H.T" George Takei's Official Worldwide Fan Club. For details send SASE/IRCs (for overseas), to: Ena Glogowska, 62 Southbank Street, Leek, Staffs. ST13 5LN, England.

SPOTLIGHT - LEONARD NIMOY INTERNATIONAL FAN CLUB: Four newsletters per year. For details send SAE to Carol Davies, 77 The Ridings, Ealing, London W5 3DP.

WALTER KOENIG INTERNATIONAL US Club, UK Contact: Pam Clarke, 15 Reedsmouth Place, Fenham, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE5 2HQ.

INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCE ALLIANCE FOR PATRICK STEWART - STARGAZER bi-monthly zine N/L covering the actor's career from Stratford to Star Trek. UK dues: \$20.00 per year surface mail. Contact Kate Maynard, 1411 Colonial Ave. No. B-5, Norfolk, VA 23517, USA.

OTHER FAN CLUBS/GROUPS

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: Would you like to help in the fight to save 'Beauty and the Beast'? For further information contact Gwen Lord, 6 Meadow Lane, Leasingham, Sleaford, Lincs. Gwen is the UK representative for Helpers Network.

THE THIRTEENTH TRIBE: the British Battlestar Galactica Fan Club. Quarterly newsletters, many fanzines and other merchandise available. Enquiries to: 19 Woodlands Road, Stanton, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs DE15 9TH

THE NETWORK - a quarterly discussion zine for MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E. fans. Includes letters, artwork, reviews and comment, information on fiction zines and other merchandise. Rates per issue are UK 70p; Europe £1.00; USA \$2.50; Pacific £1.50 or equivalent in Australian dollars. Sterling payments by cheque/postal order/stamps, other currencies cash/US stamps only. Miss Jay Felton, 'Cloudbase', 54 St Mary's Road, Leyton, London E10 5RB, England.

CAVERNS OF CHAOS: DUNCAN REGEHR APPRECIATION SOCIETY (formerly *Caverns of Chaos - Duncan Regehr Letterzine*). Now COC has mutated into a fan club and is orientated around Duncan Regehr, and the programmes he has worked on. Dues: UK £3.50, Europe £4.50, Abroad £5.50. For further details send an SAE or IRC to Miss Amanda M Horton, 2 Gerardsfeld Road, Tile Cross, Birmingham, B33 0BP.

ADZINE. A quarterly newsletter which lists everything fannish, from fanzines to conventions to want ads. £1 per issue. Ads are free to subscribers, so feel free to send me details of your club, zine, con, whatever when you subscribe. Multi-media fanzines and photographs also available. Send large SAE for list. Janet Ellicott, 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat place, Morning Lane, Hackney, London E9 6RN, England.

F.L.A.G. The Official British Knight Rider Fan Club. SAE to Mrs S. Jarvis, 21 Jackson Close, Bebington, Wirral, Merseyside L63 8PB.

FANDERSON The Official Gerry Anderson Appreciation Society. Membership includes six issues of 'Fanderson News'. Cost: U.K. £7.00, Europe £9.00, USA/Canada £11.00 & Australia £13.00. For a membership form please write (including SAE) to Andrew

Thompson, P.O. Box 111, Derby, DE1 9LT.

RANDALL AND HOPKIRK DECEASED APPRECIATION SOCIETY. SAE to 10 Brook Avenue, Edgware, Middlesex, HA8 9XF.

SCARECROW AND MRS KING FELLOWSHIP This is a new club for fans of this popular TV series. If you are interested in more information on the "SMK Fellowship", please send a self addressed, stamped envelope to: Margaret L. Richardson, 30 Kirkdale Green, Rye Hill, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE4 6HU, England. Club Dues: £3.00 UK, £4.50 Europe, £9.00 USA (airmail), £8.00 Australia. First newsletter in September 1989. Enquiries are welcome from the UK and overseas. Please remember to mark your envelope "Scarecrow & Mrs. King Fellowship." Photographs of: Bruce Boxleitner and Kate Jackson available. Please send a self addressed, stamped envelope for a list. Photostamps soon available and slogan stickers.

CRITICAL WAVE Science Fiction and Fantasy Newszine. Launched in October, 1987. Published every two months by Martin Tudor and Steve Green. Critical Wave costs £5.00 for six issues, payable to "Critical Wave Publications" at 33 Scott Road, Olton, Solihull, N92 7LQ

SCIENCE FICTION BOOKSHOPS

These shops sell Science fiction, fantasy, Star Trek and media books and they have a mail-order service.

ANDROMEDA BOOKSHOP, 84 Suffolk St. Birmingham B1 1TA. For free catalogue send 4"x9" SAE. Wide selection of SF & ST books.

AT THE SIGN OF THE DRAGON, 131 Sheen Lane, East Sheen, London SW14 8AE. 6"x9" SAE for more info. Wide selection of SF & ST books; flexible standing order system.

FINAL FRONTIER BOOKSHOP, 43/44 Silver Arcade, Leicester LE1 5FB. Send large SAE for list.

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The deadline for submissions (articles, reviews, ads, etc) for the next newsletter is November 15th. Please send everything to Janet unless otherwise specified.

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Sheila - All zine orders.

Sheila or Valerie - Submissions of stories, poetry & artwork for zines; used stamps.

Note: it is okay to send newsletter items to Sheila or Valerie as long as they receive them at least 10 days prior to the deadline.

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